United Nations A/HRC/29/15

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 April 2015

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**
**Twenty-ninth session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal Periodic Review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## Turkey

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.15-07633 (E)

*1507633*

Please recycle

# Contents


| | | *Paragraphs* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Introduction | 1–4 | 3 |
| I. | Summary of the proceedings of the review process | 5–147 | 3 |
| | A. Presentation by the State under review | 5–10 | 3 |
| | B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review | 11–147 | 4 |
| II. | Conclusions and/or recommendations | 148–154 | 13 |
| Annex | | | |
| | Composition of the delegation | | 30 |

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Turkey was held at the 13th meeting on 27 January 2015. The delegation of Turkey was headed by Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister. At its 17th meeting, held on 29 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Turkey.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Turkey: Cuba, Gabon and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Turkey:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/TUR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/TUR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/TUR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were transmitted to Turkey through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation thanked, in advance, all countries that would make recommendations in a spirit of sincere cooperation. He expressed gratitude to all relevant governmental institutions and different stakeholders for their contributions, as they were consulted during the preparation process for the UPR. He emphasized that the protection and promotion of human rights was one of the political objectives of Turkey. The first pillar of measures had been directed towards eliminating the problems stemming from legislation. The second priority had been the establishment of new national human rights mechanisms.

6. The Constitutional amendments of 12 September 2010 had introduced positive discrimination in respect of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, had enhanced the protection of personal data and children's rights and had expanded the scope of the right to freedom of assembly and association. The judicial reform packages had introduced substantial legislative amendments to the Turkish Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Anti-Terror Law and the Press Law, with the aim of strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, enhancing its efficacy, facilitating access to justice, expanding the scope of freedoms and ensuring further improvements in freedom of expression.

7. The head of delegation acknowledged the advance written questions of some countries, and stated that the Democratization Package of September 2013 enabled political campaigning and propaganda, as well as education in private schools, in languages and dialects other than Turkish. The ban on women wearing headscarves in the public service had been lifted. Hate crime was included in the Turkish Penal Code and the penalty for the offence of discrimination and hatred had been increased. A comprehensive Anti-Discrimination and Equality Law had been drafted, the action plan on preventing violations of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms had entered into force on 1 March 2014, and the number of pending applications before the European Court of Human Rights against Turkey had been reduced considerably. On 27 September 2011, Turkey became a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and ratification was under way for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), signed in 2009, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, signed on 24 September 2012.

8. Turkey's priority was institutionalization in the field of human rights. In 2010, the right of individual application to the Constitutional Court had been introduced, followed by a noteworthy body of case law.

9. The office of the Ombudsman had become operational in December 2012. A draft amendment its founding law had been prepared, with a view to ensuring the implementation of more recommendations and the settlement of complaints in a more effective way. In addition, the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of Turkey had been established in 2012 in accordance with the criteria set out by the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). Efforts were under way to enable the Institution to apply for accreditation. The NHRI was additionally designated as the national preventive mechanism to perform tasks under OP-CAT.

10. Legislative work was in progress for the establishment of a law enforcement oversight commission, which was to function independently from law enforcement bodies to examine and investigate allegations of ill-treatment made in respect of law enforcement officials. The Law on Ending Terrorism and Strengthening Social Integration had entered into force on 16 July 2014.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

11. During the interactive dialogue, 116 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

12. The United States of America expressed concern about restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, and interference in the judiciary, among other things.

13. Uruguay urged Turkey to strengthen the NHRI and improve access to education, particularly by girls.

14. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the establishment of the NHRI.

15. Yemen commended achievements benefiting women and children and elderly and disabled members of society; it noted the adoption of various legislative amendments.

16. Zimbabwe noted the amended Constitution, the establishment of the NHRI, awareness-raising and training programmes and the extension of compulsory education to the age of 12.

17. Afghanistan welcomed the constitutional amendment package and commended the adoption of the law on the NHRI.

18. Albania commended the legislative and judicial reforms and noted the right of individuals to appeal to the Constitutional Court.

19. Angola appreciated Turkey's cooperation with international mechanisms in the field of freedoms and fundamental rights.

20. Argentina welcomed the adoption of a strategy and plan of action on children rights (2013–2017).

21. Armenia made recommendations.

22. Australia noted international and civil society concerns about the use of force in responding to political protests.

23. Austria made recommendations.

24. Azerbaijan welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman and the NHRI and the contribution of Turkey to the dialogue among civilizations.

25. Bahrain welcomed the new syllabus on human rights and democracy in education, and efforts to combat human trafficking.

26. Qatar appreciated the establishment of human rights institutions, specifically the Ombudsman. It commended humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees.

27. Belarus welcomed the improvement of the national legislation to align it with the international human rights obligations of Turkey.

28. Belgium inquired whether law enforcement officials were trained in conformity with the United Nations code of conduct for police.

29. Benin praised the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and the initiatives in promoting human rights.

30. Bosnia and Herzegovina was interested in having further information on the National Plan of Action of Gender Equality.

31. Botswana noted the constitutional amendments granting fundamental freedoms, and the establishment of the NHRI.

32. Brazil encouraged accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, following its recommendation from the first UPR cycle.

33. Brunei Darussalam congratulated Turkey for its progress on the institutionalization of human rights and commended measures to promote gender equality.

34. Bulgaria expressed its appreciation for the establishment of the office of the Ombudsman, and the national preventive mechanism under OP-CAT. It welcomed the adoption of the judicial reform packages, and the restructuring of the Constitutional Court and the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors.

35. Canada applauded Turkey for being the first to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

36. Chad noted the improvement in the legal framework and the creation of institutions to reinforce institutional human rights guarantees.

37. Chile acknowledged institutional progress, but considered there were areas where implementation could be improved.

38. China commended Turkey's legislative and institutional reforms and efforts in fighting trafficking in persons.

39. Comoros appreciated the creation of independent appeal bodies for the benefit of the citizens.

40. The Congo welcomed legal and institutional human rights reforms, the combating of discrimination, the strengthening of the judiciary, and legal amendments on terrorism and regarding the press.

41. Costa Rica noted the strengthening of the judiciary to enhance its independence and capacity to protect human rights.

42. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the dialogue launched with civil society. It encouraged Turkey to strengthen measures to protect victims of domestic violence and violence at schools.

43. Croatia observed that the legislation on discrimination failed to protect against discrimination on all grounds. It noted that conscientious objection to military service was not recognized.

44. Cuba welcomed the efforts to guarantee the right to education and implement children's rights.

45. Cyprus regretted that its previous recommendations had been reflected in the subsequent report in the first cycle in a discriminatory manner.

46. The Czech Republic expressed appreciation for the response to some of its advance questions.

47. Denmark welcomed the setting up of a legal framework towards a solution regarding Kurds. It noted interference by the executive in the judiciary, a lack of transparency, and impunity.

48. Djibouti lauded the efforts to implement the six judicial reform packages since the first UPR.

49. Ecuador recognized the efforts to implement UPR recommendations, particularly those related to persons with disabilities.

50. The head of the delegation of Turkey stated that consultations were being conducted with representatives of the Alevi community to address their demands. Problems of Roma citizens regarding education, employment, housing, social policy and health had been discussed, and solution-oriented approaches had been adopted. The absence of specific provisions in respect of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons did not mean that their rights were not legally guaranteed. The necessary investigations were conducted into cases of killings of and acts of violence against LGBTI persons and all types of hate crimes, in order to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice. The legal process was conducted with diligence by the judicial authorities.

51. Minority rights in Turkey were regulated in accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923; only non-Muslim citizens were recognized as "minorities". No other definition of minority existed in Turkey. Turkish citizens belonging to non-Muslim minorities were entitled to the same rights and freedoms as other nationals on an individual basis, including having their own schools, places of worship, foundations, hospitals and media organizations. Any isolated anti-Semitic statements were condemned at the highest level, and the necessary judicial or administrative steps were taken. No restrictions whatsoever existed on the enjoyment of religious rights by non-Muslim citizens. Positive steps had been taken in the field of education and culture for non-Muslim citizens.

52. The head of the delegation, responding to an issue raised by the delegation of Armenia, said that claims and allegations of a blockade were unfounded and did not reflect the reality on the ground and were not related to human rights. Transit transportation between Armenia and third countries could be carried out through Georgia or the Islamic Republic of Iran and through Turkey, and there were direct flights between Turkey and Armenia. The previous week, upon the anniversary of the death of Hrant Dink, the Prime Minister had once again confirmed the importance that Turkey accorded that matter and the humanitarian approach that it had in that respect.

53. Turkey was taking the measures necessary to prevent the movement of citizens of third countries who attempted to use its territory to travel to third countries to join radical groups; source countries were also expected to take similar steps and cooperate with Turkey in that regard.

54. The delegation stated that there were 166 non-Muslim community foundations in Turkey. Regulations had been enacted to address the property issues of foundations belonging to different faith groups. Provisional article 11 had been introduced, on 27 August 2011, to the Law on Foundations No. 5737, whereupon the Foundations Council had decided to register 333 immovable properties in the name of the relevant foundation, and compensation for 21 immovable properties had been paid.

55. Egypt expressed concern about the deterioration in the human rights situation, especially regarding freedom of expression and assembly.

56. Equatorial Guinea noted with satisfaction measures taken in favour of minorities and women's participation in political life.

57. Estonia called upon Turkey to respect the right to peaceful assembly and association. It expressed hope that human rights defenders and journalists could work properly and without fearing prosecution.

58. Finland commended efforts to protect refugees, but noted that restrictions on media and dissenting voices had continued to increase.

59. France welcomed the Deputy Minister and his delegation.

60. Gabon congratulated Turkey for the constitutional amendment recognizing the principle of positive discrimination, the judicial reform, the mediator institution and the law on terrorism and social integration.

61. Germany welcomed developments regarding freedom of religion and belief, but was concerned by restrictions on peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

62. Ghana applauded progress, but inquired about the removal of fundamental legal safeguards.

63. Greece made several recommendations.

64. Honduras acknowledged the efforts made since the first review.

65. Hungary welcomed legal reforms, the creation of the NHRI and measures recognizing minorities.

66. Iceland recognized Constitutional amendments but was concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression and about domestic violence.

67. India welcomed the judicial reform and democratization package, the Ombudsman and gender equality policies. It encouraged Turkey to enhance the equality of women, address discrimination against minorities and implement CRPD.

68. Indonesia welcomed legal and institutional reforms, the protection of children in conflict with the law and the fight against human trafficking, which could be strengthened.

69. Ireland expressed concern about restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

70. Israel noted the ongoing criminalization of non-violent dissenting speech and restrictions on access to information.

71. Italy welcomed efforts to promote dialogue among religions, and encouraged Turkey to continue to fight against child labour.

72. Japan commended Turkey for accepting large numbers of refugees from neighbouring countries, and encouraged further implementation of legislative reforms.

73. Jordan commended the sincere and ongoing efforts to further promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

74. Kazakhstan commended Turkey on its role in strengthening cooperation among all the countries belonging to the Turkic family, especially in the cultural sphere.

75. Kenya welcomed the recent establishment of the NHRI.

76. Kuwait commended Turkey on its commitment to implement previous UPR recommendations, which confirmed its commitment to human rights.

77. Kyrgyzstan noted that the NHRI was designated as the national preventive mechanism to perform tasks within the context of OP-CAT.

78. Lao People's Democratic Republic expressed appreciation for efforts to protect and safeguard the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

79. Latvia commended efforts in raising girls' schooling rates and the provision of education services to refugees.

80. Lebanon expressed appreciation for the protection of basic rights and freedoms, as reflected in the creation of institutions and the passing of human rights-related legislation.

81. Lithuania welcomed positive steps towards the prevention of inequalities.

82. Luxembourg thanked Turkey for its efforts to help Syrian refugees.

83. Madagascar welcomed the establishment of the office of the Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles.

84. Malaysia expressed appreciation for progress in women's rights, particularly through the establishment of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies.

85. Switzerland noted that serious and persisting problems prevailed in the field of human rights, in particular in relation to its recommendations from the first UPR.

86. Mauritania noted Turkey's cooperation with human rights mechanisms and its efforts to overcome difficulties.

87. Mauritius welcomed the introduction of compulsory education and the constitutional amendment providing for positive discrimination for children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

88. Mexico recognized legislative achievements and expressed appreciation for the efforts to enhance the independence of the judiciary.

89. Montenegro requested that Turkey elaborate on the measures taken to prevent early and forced marriages in an integrated manner.

90. Morocco welcomed the country's adhesion to OP-CAT, progress made on gender equality and the introduction in the Constitution of the concept of affirmative action.

91. Myanmar appreciated efforts in reviewing laws and regulations and bringing them into line with the country's international obligations and commitments.

92. Namibia noted the recognition of the principle of positive discrimination for women, children and disabled and elderly people, and the judicial reform packages.

93. The Netherlands called for further steps to be taken in the peace process with the Kurds, and expressed concern about the number of journalists prosecuted.

94. Nicaragua noted the constitutional reforms and democratization package undertaken by the Government.

95. The Niger noted the incorporation in the Constitution of, inter alia, the principle of affirmative action for women, children and disabled and elderly people, and the strengthening of the judicial and institutional frameworks.

96. Norway expressed concerns about reports of increased intervention in the media and about journalists' self-censorship.

97. In response to the Egyptian delegate, the head of the delegation underlined that Turkey was open to all constructive recommendations and criticism regarding the implementation of democracy, fundamental freedoms and, especially, human rights, since they are universal values. However the delegation wished to see such criticism and recommendations coming from parties who adhered to the same common universal values as Turkey did.

98. In Turkey, freedom of expression and the media were considered an indispensable part of democratic order. The offence of creating propaganda for terrorist organizations had been redefined and amended to reflect more concrete criteria for conviction. A working group had been set up in the Ministry of Justice for the identification of legal provisions that may impose restrictions on the freedom of expression. A complete pluralism existed in Turkey in respect of media organizations.

99. The head of the delegation clarified that the reasons for the detention of persons who were referred to as "detained journalists" were not related to their journalistic activities. As at 23 January 2015, a total of 31 such persons were in custody—29 convicted, 2 held on remand—on charges such as being a member of an armed terrorist organization, attempting to overthrow the constitutional order, voluntary manslaughter and embezzlement.

100. The head of the delegation stressed that the judiciary was independent from the legislative and executive powers. Detention on remand had ceased to be a widely used protective measure; the length of detentions and the detention rates in prisons had been dramatically reduced.

101. The delegation noted that the law on assemblies and demonstration marches had been amended to ensure public participation in the determination of venues and routes for assemblies. Tear gas weapons were used only by certified personnel. Concerning the events referred to as the Gezi park protests, the head of the delegation stated that the law enforcement officers had intervened within the bounds of the law and as necessary in a democratic society. In respect of allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement officers, those responsible were brought to justice. As a result of administrative investigations, 149 personnel had been sanctioned. Regarding judicial proceedings, 329 investigations had been launched; 59 had resulted in non-prosecution, while a number of remaining files had resulted in public prosecution. Recently, two police officers had each been sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Other investigations were pending.

102. The delegation stated that electronic monitoring and enforcement in the residence via probation services were being used as alternative to imprisonment.

103. With the aim of preventing the riot police from using disproportionate force and of controlling individual mistakes, helmet devices had been procured and helmets now bore identification numbers. Furthermore, the Directive for Procedures and Principles on Actions of Police Forces Commissioned for Riot Control for Assemblies and Demonstration Marches and the Circular on Tear Gas Weapons and Ammunition had been issued.

104. Within the framework of the zero-tolerance policy for torture and ill-treatment, all relevant departments, including detention rooms, were being monitored by cameras and the records were being kept for 30 days. The number of judicial and disciplinary decisions on "overstepping the use of force" and "torture crimes" had recently decreased as a result of the measures taken.

105. Certain delegations had raised the issue of Cyprus. The position of Turkey on that issue was well known, and that Turkey did not need to repeat its position at that time, nor was it the right place to speak of the realities regarding the creation and perpetuation of the Cyprus conflict.

106. Oman lauded particular achievements regarding women and children, especially the right to education and girls' school enrolment.

107. Pakistan welcomed the constitutional amendment for positive discrimination and the law on prevention of violence against women.

108. Panama congratulated Turkey for its ratification of OP-CAT, and urged it to ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to CRPD.

109. The Philippines asked about Turkey's plans to strengthen its capacity to ensure that labour laws protecting migrant workers were implemented.

110. Poland acknowledged positive developments towards gender equality and combating domestic violence.

111. Portugal welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence against Women.

112. Bangladesh noted reform processes, legal and institutional measures and training for public officials.

113. The Republic of Korea commended Turkey on its constitutional reforms and on measures taken under the judicial reform packages, such as the democratization package.

114. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Compensation Commission and steps taken to combat human trafficking, and asked whether Turkey envisaged ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

115. Romania noted the establishment of the national preventive mechanism for prevention of torture, and the efforts to fight trafficking in persons.

116. The Russian Federation welcomed judicial reforms, the adoption of the anti-terrorism law, the strengthening of social integration, the establishment of the Ombudsman, and the possibility for individuals to submit complaints to the Constitutional Court.

117. Rwanda took positive note of the adoption of the National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence against Women and the establishment of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies.

118. Senegal welcomed the new Constitution, the Criminal Code amendment, the democratization package, the NHRI and the OP-CAT ratification.

119. Serbia encouraged Turkey to continue its efforts towards gender equality in social, political and economic spheres of influence.

120. Sierra Leone expressed concern about reports of police impunity. It urged Turkey to ensure the independence of the judiciary and to promote interreligious integration.

121. Singapore commended Turkey for carrying out wide-ranging legal reforms, and welcomed the emphasis placed on equality and non-discrimination in the Constitution.

122. Slovakia commended the introduction of the right to file individual complaints before the Constitutional Court.

123. Slovenia commended the open-door policy towards Syrian refugees, and noted that gender equality challenges remained.

124. Somalia commended Turkey on ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

125. South Sudan welcomed the generosity, solidarity and protection provided to Syrian refugees.

126. Spain welcomed the ratification of OP-CAT, and expressed concerns about restrictions on freedom of opinion, association and assembly.

127. Sri Lanka commended the approach taken in the advancement of the family as a cohesive unit.

128. The State of Palestine commended efforts to combat discrimination and strengthen human rights, particularly in terms of accessible education and curriculum reform.

129. The Sudan welcomed measures to improve human rights protections focused on women, children and persons with disabilities, and commended the Constitutional amendments of 2010.

130. Sweden recognized the strengthening of the protection of freedom of expression, but noted that authorities encouraged self-censorship.

131. Maldives recognized efforts to combat violence against women and honour crimes, and encouraged Turkey to enhance efforts to improve the quality of education.

132. The Syrian Arab Republic questioned the aims of Turkey's open borders and temporary protection and the application of the anti-terrorism law.

133. Tajikistan welcomed the effective application and strengthening of the legal frameworks related to human rights, and judicial reforms.

134. Thailand welcomed the adoption of the democratization package in 2013, which enhanced the rights of minorities.

135. Timor-Leste noted the protection against child labour, but remained concerned about violence against women, despite progress on women's rights.

136. Togo commended the comprehensive legal and political human rights reform.

137. Tunisia noted the legal human rights reforms and protection of women against violence and discrimination. It encouraged Turkey to ratify pending treaties and align the NHRI with the Paris Principles.

138. Turkmenistan noted the judicial reform packages, aimed at strengthening the independence of the judiciary and facilitating access to justice.

139. Ukraine commended efforts to implement UPR recommendations and the judicial reform package adopted by Parliament.

140. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed steps to address Kurdish issues, and was concerned by restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression.

141. Algeria praised the revision of the Constitution and the establishment of a number of institutions to strengthen human rights.

142. The head of the delegation underlined that equality between women and men before the law was one of the basic principles of the Turkish Constitution. A new definition had been introduced in the Constitution through an amendment in 2010, which allowed for positive discrimination for women. Turkey had been the first to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention; Law No. 6284 on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence against Women had been put into force with provisions compatible with the Convention. The National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence against Women had been updated for the period 2012–2015. Turkey considered honour killings abhorrent violations of human rights which could not be justified on social, cultural or religious grounds. The Turkish Penal Code penalized honour killings with aggravated life imprisonment.

143. The Law on Persons with Disabilities had been revised in accordance with the approach of and the obligations envisaged in CRPD. Improvements had been made in schools for children with disabilities. Turkey had signed ILO conventions No. 167 and No. 176 in 2014. Both conventions were at the final stage of ratification.

144. The Law on Foreigners and International Protection had entered into force on 11 April 2014, and the principle of non-refoulement had gained legal basis. The procedure relating to humanitarian residence permit and subsidiary protection mechanisms had been defined, and "temporary protection" to be provided in cases of massive influx had been codified for the first time. Work on drafting the law on the prevention of human trafficking and protection of victims was under way.

145. The delegation highlighted that the National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Rights of the Child 2013–2017 was focused on keeping girls in the education system, with an aim to prevent early marriages. The illiteracy rate of women and girls in Turkey had been decreasing for the past decade. Turkey had ratified the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). The National Strategy Document and Action Plan included key measures on the prevention of child labour.

146. Turkey was a safe harbour for more than 1.6 million Syrians. With others, the figure reached 2 million. In conformity with its international obligations, Turkey had pursued an open-door policy for all Syrians and Iraqis who had to flee the conflicts in their countries during the past four years. The amount disbursed for its humanitarian response had reached US$ 5 billion, whereas total bilateral and multilateral support had remained at US$ 300 million. In response to certain allegations, the delegation stated that accusing Turkey of mistreating Syrians or not doing its share in addressing their needs was equal to failing to acknowledge the huge burden on and the great sacrifices made by Turkey.

147. The head of delegation thanked everyone who attended the UPR review of Turkey; the questions asked and recommendations made during the session had been noted and would be considered with diligence.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

148. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Turkey and enjoy its support:**

148.1. **Pursue its policy in acceding to international and regional conventions and mechanisms on human rights and freedoms (Kuwait);**

148.2. **Continue the consideration of its accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Hungary);**

148.3. **Ratify swiftly the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

148.4. **Accelerate the ratification processes of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, which it signed in 2009 and 2012, respectively (Zimbabwe);**

148.5. **Further fulfil the internationally taken obligations as well as implement the ratified international treaties (Kazakhstan);**

148.6. **Continue with the fundamental legislative amendments related to human rights (Kuwait);**

148.7. **Continue its efforts in its legal reform process to further promote and protect human rights in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

148.8. **Continue to align its national legislation with international human rights instruments to which it is a State party (Nicaragua);**

148.9. **Continue the process of enacting new laws that will ensure that the rights and freedoms granted under its amended constitution can be fully enjoyed by its people (Philippines);**

148.10. **Adopt a law against different types of discrimination and for equality in the public and private sector, and the monitoring of complaints (Albania);**

148.11. **Speed up the finalisation of the draft law on combating human trafficking and the protection of victims (Bahrain);**

148.12. **Adopt the Act on the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims (Kyrgyzstan);**

148.13. **Promote amendments in the current laws to envisage the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of violence against women, in particular domestic violence (Panama);**

148.14. **Continue its efforts to ensure that the national laws protect freedom of expression online and offline (Latvia);**

148.15. **Continue its efforts to adopt the law on Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims (Sudan);**

148.16. **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and effectively implement it (Czech Republic);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

148.17. **Continue adopting comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination, including against women (State of Palestine);**

148.18. **Accelerate the adoption of the draft laws on Equality and Anti-discrimination and the Enforcement Monitoring Bodies (Lithuania);**

148.19. **Expedite the completion, and followed by the enactment of, the draft "Law on the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims" (Indonesia);**

148.20. **Establish the National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);**

148.21. **Undertake the necessary measures to obtain the "A" accreditation for the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Institution (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

148.22. **Consider applying for an "A" status accreditation of the National Human Rights Institution (Hungary);**

148.23. **Strengthen the National Human Rights Institution in order to ensure its independence and effectiveness in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);**

148.24. **Implement all necessary measures in order to ensure that its national human rights body is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Comoros);**

148.25. **Take necessary measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Institution is brought into compliance with the Paris Principles (Kenya);**

148.26. **Further strengthen the capacities of the Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Niger);**

148.27. **Continue its efforts to develop training programs within the framework of the project entitled "Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights" (Yemen);**

148.28. **Undertake further measures in accordance with the "National Strategy on Children's Rights and its Action Plan" in order to ensure the rights of the children and combat early marriage (Albania);**

148.29. **Intensify its efforts to implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for 2013–2015 (Equatorial Guinea);**

148.30. **Continue further improvement of the promotion and protection of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);**

148.31. **Continue the efforts to set up the independent committee to monitor the implementation of laws (Qatar);**

148.32. **Strengthen internal mechanisms for the implementation of OP-CAT (Spain);**

148.33. **Strengthen the various monitoring mechanisms established for effective enforcement of the new legislations and action plans, in particular those targeting the inclusion of the most marginalized segments of the population (Mauritius);**

148.34. **Accelerate the process of adopting the National Strategy and Plan of Action on Violence against Children (Benin);**

148.35. **Continue its efforts for proper implementation of the constitutional reforms concerning the protection of children and older persons (Ecuador);**

148.36. **Renew its commitment to a comprehensive reform of legislation aimed at guaranteeing the rule of law, the freedom of thought, religion, expression and of the media, in compliance with international standards (Italy);**

148.37. **Continue developing the institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (Jordan);**

148.38. **Continue its efforts to strengthen the framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (Kazakhstan);**

148.39. **Continue to work to fully secure the rights of the child (Russian Federation);**

148.40. **Continue its policies in improving women's rights (Jordan);**

148.41. **Step up efforts to prevent organised crime networks (Lebanon);**

148.42. **Further strengthen the work of the Committee for the Prevention of Early and Enforced Marriages (Myanmar);**

148.43. **Adopt the draft National Strategy and Action Plan on Violence against Children (Bangladesh);**

148.44. **Continue implementing the National Strategy Document and Action Plan on Children's Rights (Myanmar);**

148.45. **Continue to implement Democratization Package 2013 (Pakistan);**

148.46. **Pursue the development of enforcement mechanisms so that the National Action Plan for Combating Domestic Violence against Women is consistently implemented (Portugal);**

148.47. **Continue efforts for gender equality in the context of the National Plan of Action of Gender Equality (Algeria);**

148.48. **Complete the work towards the establishment of a national strategy on combating violence against children (Somalia);**

148.49. **Continue the implementation of the National Strategy and Plan of Action for the Rights of the Child (Algeria);**

148.50. **Continue its efforts in the area of human rights training, particularly for staff of penitentiary establishments (Senegal);**

148.51. **Strengthen publicity campaigns on the non-acceptability of any human rights violations (Tajikistan);**

148.52. **Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

148.53. **Further strengthen its international human rights commitments to the principle of cooperation and dialogue with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Kazakhstan);**

148.54. **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and human rights mechanisms to overcome remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

148.55. **Step up cooperation with the special procedures mandate holders by responding positively to the pending visit requests (Latvia);**

148.56. **Continue to ensure the equality of all its citizens, in particular the minorities, through fair legislative and regulatory means (Singapore);**

148.57. **Continue its commendable efforts to empower women in social, political, economic and public life, including by continuing its positive measures to improve women's employment (Malaysia);**

148.58. **Continue to work on the protection of women's rights and the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Securing Gender Equality. (Russian Federation);**

148.59. **Allocate adequate resources to implement its policies and programmes aimed at ensuring that equality between men and women are realized in practice (Philippines);**

148.60. **Take further measures on anti-discrimination and equality to address gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices that fuel domestic gender-based violence (Ukraine);**

148.61. **Take necessary measures, in putting law into practice, to further ensure the implementation on gender equality (Sweden);**

148.62. **Continue with the efforts to improve the status of women, including measures for gender equality at all levels in society, with a view to enhancing their contribution to the national development processes (Sri Lanka);**

148.63. **Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of women's rights through the implementation of the various national action plans (Brunei Darussalam);**

148.64. **Implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, in particular on the enhancement and awareness of the gender equality in different fields such as education, public life, employment and health (Albania);**

148.65. **Continue taking temporary special measures to accelerate the improvement of the situation of women (Togo);**

148.66. **Strengthen the actions taken to combat discrimination against women in all areas (Ecuador);**

148.67. **Exert concrete efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Republic of Korea);**

148.68. **Take necessary measures to ensure gender equality in all spheres, and ensure women's protection against domestic violence (Honduras);**

148.69. **Strengthen measures to guarantee gender equality as well as actions to prevent violence against women (Côte d'Ivoire);**

148.70. **Continue its efforts for empowering women to better improve their participation at the decision-making level (Myanmar);**

148.71. **Strengthen gender equality policies, particularly the promotion of employment of women in all fields (Angola);**

148.72. **Accelerate efforts to increase the number of women in public life and to eliminate and prevent violence against women (Austria);**

148.73. **Continue to combat violence against women and ensure gender equality (Pakistan);**

148.74. **Continue efforts to promote the rights of women and combat violence against them (Morocco);**

148.75. **Make available all the necessary needs to guarantee the success of the National Plan of Action of Gender Equality 2015–2020 (Qatar);**

148.76. **Continue its efforts to promote the rights of women by providing them access to posts of responsibilities (Benin);**

148.77. **Vigorously pursue reforms towards redressing gender inequalities in secondary schools (Djibouti);**

148.78. **End the two-year regulatory gap and promulgate new electoral regulations so that Turkish citizens belonging to non-Muslim communities be able to manage their charitable foundations (Greece);**

148.79. **Additional steps be put in place to protect women's rights more effectively in rural areas in particular (Japan);**

148.80. **Carry on the efforts for the empowerment of women and provide employment opportunities for women (Oman);**

148.81. **Carry on intensifying programs and activities aiming at raising human rights awareness (Oman);**

148.82. **Step up efforts to prevent violence against children (Belarus);**

148.83. **Better identify and assist trafficking victims and implement systematic training for government officials on human trafficking crimes, gender-based violence, and gender equality (United States of America);**

148.84. **Continue combating human trafficking (Senegal);**

148.85. **Take concrete actions to fight against human trafficking and illegal migrants, to implement international obligations and defend normal order of international migration (China);**

148.86. **Adopt legal measures to prevent child labour and trafficking accompanied by effective monitoring mechanisms (Montenegro);**

148.87. **Take measures in law and in practice to decrease child labour, most notably regarding hazardous work (Sweden);**

148.88. **Adopt additional measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and bring the minimum age of access to employment into line with international standards (Togo);**

148.89. **Continue taking steps to prevent violence against children, child labour and trafficking (Ukraine);**

148.90. **Pursue measures targeted at preventing trafficking in human beings and ensuring effective protection to victims, including by adopting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law (Republic of Moldova);**

148.91. **Pursue efforts to combat human trafficking and adopt a law to prevent this phenomenon and protect victims as soon as possible (Lebanon);**

148.92. **Redouble its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and protect its victims, in particular children (Honduras);**

148.93. **Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons and prosecute perpetrators (Sierra Leone);**

148.94. **Explore further steps with a view to strengthening domestic measures to combat human trafficking and child labour (Sri Lanka);**

148.95. **Continue to combat all forms of violence against women (Belarus);**

148.96. **Strengthen the implementation effectiveness of Turkey's 2012 domestic law on preventing violence against women (Iceland);**

148.97. **Continue its effort in combating violence against women, especially domestic violence, by effectively enforcing its law and undertaking necessary legislative review, and ensure the protection of the rights of the victims (Thailand);**

148.98. **Design long-term strategy and awareness-raising programmes to eliminate harmful practices such as domestic violence and early marriages in particular (Lithuania);**

148.99. **Take measures in law and in practice to decrease child marriage, most notably among girls (Sweden);**

148.100. **Strengthen efforts to eliminate child, early and forced marriage (Maldives);**

148.101. **Continue its efforts on the prevention of violence against women (Somalia);**

148.102. **Pursue the implementation of effective measures to protect women and children against domestic violence and ill-treatment in all its forms (Luxembourg);**

148.103. **In accordance with the Action Plan for Children's Rights (2013–2017), apply legal and administrative measures to effectively prevent early marriages (Equatorial Guinea);**

148.104. **Increase measures to provide judges with continuous training on the areas of principles, jurisprudence and international human rights principles, in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (Chile);**

148.105. **Pursue its work on reforms with a view to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and provide judges with adequate human rights training (Slovakia);**

148.106. **Foster an independent judiciary and consult with civil society, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Venice Commission on any judicial reform (United States of America);**

148.107. **Continue to take steps to strengthen the rule of law by ensuring the effective implementation of legal reforms (Singapore);**

148.108. **Continue strengthening the steps taken to ensure the protection of children in conflict with the law, including considering adopting restorative justice principles (Indonesia);**

148.109. **Step up efforts to combat impunity and carry out rapid, impartial, effective and in depth inquiries for all past or present allegations of human rights violations committed by security forces and ensure that such violations do not remain unpunished (Switzerland);**

148.110. **Pursue the process already undertaken of children's civil registration (Equatorial Guinea);**

148.111. **Ensure effective implementation of its domestic laws on the protection of the family and prevention of violence against women and children (Israel);**

148.112. **Implement effectively the Law to Protect Family and Prevent Violence against Women (Italy);**

148.113. **Continue strengthening the family and family values, including by protecting and ensuring the welfare of the family members, particularly children (Malaysia);**

148.114. **Continue dialogue among faith groups to strengthen and consolidate the spirit of co-existence (South Sudan);**

148.115. **Continue efforts to strengthen freedom of expression and belief (Lebanon);**

148.116. **Take measures to ensure full enjoyment of freedom of expression, particularly freedom of the press, and bring to an end the restrictions on internet access (Luxembourg);**

148.117. **Strengthen protection of the freedom of expression by allowing discourse and greater access to information, both online and offline, and ensure the penal code and anti-terror laws are consistent with international obligations (United States of America);**

148.118. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, online and offline, to fully ensure that journalists can pursue their profession without harassment and fear of reprisals, and review its legislation to bring it in line with international human rights standards (Austria);**

148.119. **Limit the provisions on restrictions of freedom of expression in conformity with the international standards (France);**

148.120. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, association and peaceful assembly and align its legislation with its obligations and commitments based on relevant international law (Switzerland);**

148.121. **Take steps to ensure she upholds her international obligations on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

148.122. **Take measures to further ensure the independence and freedom of the media (Sweden);**

148.123. **Strengthen freedom of assembly and expression, ensuring adequate access to internet (Costa Rica);**

148.124. **Strengthen measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression (Botswana);**

148.125. **Continue to modify and implement its legislation on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association in order to fully meet its international human rights obligations by, inter alia, simplifying notification requirements for planned demonstrations in the spirit of peaceful freedom of assembly (Finland);**

148.126. **Continue the measures in favour of different religious groups for the exercise of freedom of religion and conscience (Angola);**

148.127. **Make efforts aimed at broadening the scope of application of freedom of expression (Angola);**

148.128. **Ensure that civil society actors, including marginalized groups like those representing LGBT persons, are included in the implementation and follow-up of human rights obligations, including UPR recommendations (Norway);**

148.129. **Increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (Rwanda);**

148.130. **Apply comprehensively the practice of implementing human rights monitoring at the national level through direct communication with the population (Tajikistan);**

148.131. **Contribute to the social integration of the rural populations by actively engaging them in all spheres of activity (Tajikistan);**

148.132. **Increase the number of labour inspectors, especially in the rural provinces (Italy);**

148.133. **Establish a national action plan aimed at reinforcing the participation of women in the labor market (Luxembourg);**

148.134. **Continue taking measures to uplift education, particularly in rural areas, and increase the enrolment in schools in these regions (State of Palestine);**

148.135. **Continue strengthening its successful national education policy, with a view to achieve full school inclusion at all levels, so as to advance towards greater social welfare for its people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

148.136. **Continue taking the necessary measures to keep girls in schools, and guarantee that they continue their official and higher education (Bahrain);**

148.137. **Continue its efforts to promote school attendance and to eliminate child labour, particularly in rural areas (Japan);**

148.138. **Take further measures to promote education in rural areas (Bangladesh);**

148.139. **Continue to implement the necessary measures to ensure the right to education for all citizens (Cuba);**

148.140. **Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, especially focusing on the implementation of CRPD (Maldives);**

148.141. **Continue to develop inclusive education for the sake of children with disabilities (Belarus);**

148.142. **Maintain the commitment to increasingly support the rights of persons with disabilities (Cuba);**

148.143. **Establish a mechanism for monitoring public policies that protect the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in the areas of education, health and employment (Mexico);**

148.144. **Strengthen participation by persons with disabilities in social life (Morocco);**

148.145. **Intensify the inclusion and integration of children with disabilities into the society and the education system (Panama);**

148.146. **Reinforce efforts aimed at safeguarding rights of persons with disabilities, including guaranteeing their access to inclusive education (Ukraine);**

148.147. **Take necessary measures to eradicate difficulties facing persons with disabilities in exercising their rights and improve their access to public places, services and social security benefits (Republic of Korea);**

148.148. **Continue to address the inequalities affecting particularly the Roma community (Slovakia);**

148.149. **Continue to strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups, such as disabled children and Roma in less developed cities and rural areas (China);**

148.150. **Continue efforts to efficiently combat discrimination against non-Muslim minorities (Togo);**

148.151. **Reopen the Greek minority high school on Imvros island (Greece);**

148.152. **Tackle the ongoing issues of irregular migrants and seriously prosecute traffickers who prey on and take advantage of those vulnerable persons (Thailand);**

148.153. **Continue providing generous support to the Syrian refugees in Turkey (Djibouti).**

149. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Turkey, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

149.1. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

149.2. **Fully implement the international obligations emanating from the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

149.3. **Guarantee full implementation of all European Court of Human Rights rulings within an adequate time frame (Germany);**

149.4. **Comply with the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the rights of the Greek citizens to inherit immovable property in Turkey (Greece);**

149.5. **Comply with international treaties and standards for the full enjoyment of the rights of members of non-Muslim communities and their institutions (Greece);**

149.6. **Criminalize domestic violence (Timor-Leste);**

149.7. **Enforce legislation criminalising gender-based violence and prosecute all cases of violence against women (Sierra Leone);**

149.8. **Set up a national mechanism for preventing torture (France);**

149.9. **Implement article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and abolish all legal or other restrictions for the release of sick or terminally sick inmates (Germany);**

149.10. **Implement the provisions of the six "Judicial Reform Packages" encompassing various rights and freedoms, in particular the freedom of expression and the media online and offline (Hungary);**

149.11. **Bring the laws regulating the use of force by law enforcement officers in line with international standards, particularly taking into account components of proportionality and necessity; to create an independent oversight mechanism with respect to complaints against criminal conduct by the police (Lithuania);**

149.12. **Monitor and report on the compliance with the recommendations put forward by the special rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers, on migrants and on extrajudicial executions (Mexico);**

149.13. **Promote the adoption of measures to combat discrimination against women and promote gender equality (Panama);**

149.14. **Implement a national plan of action that would abolish discrimination against women, which is fostered by gender inequality (Serbia);**

149.15. **End all limitations on participation of non-Muslim Turkish citizens in the organized life of their communities and enjoyment of their cultural and religious heritage (Greece);**

149.16. **Consider the adoption of the specific legislation prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children (Poland);**

149.17. **Prohibit all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment (Slovenia);**

149.18. **Strengthen measures to combat violence against women, including through the effective implementation of existing legislation and the National Action Plan (Brazil);**

149.19. **Criminalise child marriage (Sierra Leone);**

149.20. **Take, as soon as possible, the necessary legislative and political measures to end early and forced marriages (Belgium);**

149.21. **Consider the establishment of budgetary allotments to improve the conditions of the prison population (Mexico);**

149.22. **Guarantee full independence of the judiciary (Luxembourg);**

149.23. **All areas of the judiciary be completely independent from the executive (Denmark);**

149.24. **Protect the judiciary against all interference from bodies belonging to other branches of government (Switzerland);**

149.25. **Take steps to ensure the total independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Namibia);**

149.26. **Ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Uruguay);**

149.27. **Conduct effective investigation on the case of murder of Hrant Dink, Editor-in-Chief of the Turkish language Armenian weekly "Agos" (Armenia);**

149.28. **Address concerns about increasing interference by the executive in the judiciary (Australia);**

149.29. **Guarantee an independent and impartial judiciary, including by refraining from undue interference by the executive (Austria);**

149.30. **Establish a truly independent mechanism to investigate complaints of police violence and provide it with the necessary financial and administrative resources to make it effective and transparent to prosecute the perpetrators and compensate victims (Belgium);**

149.31. **Investigate allegations of torture and excessive use of force and take appropriate measures to punish perpetrators (Botswana);**

149.32. **Ensure the investigation, prosecution and punishment of any act of discrimination or violence motivated by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity (Slovenia);**

149.33. **Take all necessary measures to solve the problems of non-Muslim minorities caused by the closing of the Halki seminary (Greece);**

149.34. **Refrain from censoring social and conventional media and ensure that freedom of expression is safeguarded in all forms, including the arts (Norway);**

149.35. **Respect the right to freedom of assembly as well as to carry out investigations into excessive use of force by security forces against peaceful protesters (Austria);**

149.36. **Guarantee freedom of assembly and association, including by protecting protestors from ill-treatment and by investigating allegations of abuse by officials promptly, thoroughly and independently (Germany);**

149.37. **Guarantee freedom of expression to all media, particularly to journalists (France);**

149.38. **Revise the practice of excessive use of force to dissolve crowds and protect its inhabitants' rights to freedom of assembly and of association (Norway);**

149.39. **Facilitate holding peaceful protests, protect all peaceful demonstrators from violence and arbitrary arrest and fight impunity for the use of excessive force against protestors by law-enforcement personnel (Czech Republic);**

149.40. **Implement the policy of return of the confiscated properties to the Armenians and other religious minorities, such as places of worship, including monasteries, church properties and religious and cultural sites through close consultations with their legal owners (Armenia);**

149.41. **Guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly (France);**

149.42. **Reaffirm its commitment to freedom of assembly, a proportional and legitimate response to protest activity, and to a free media (Australia);**

149.43. **Take into consideration the views of the civil society and respect European Union standards when elaborating the security law package (France);**

149.44. **Ensure in practice that all women are able to exercise their legal right to a safe abortion, without discrimination of any kind (Slovenia);**

149.45. **Take appropriate measures to provide school education to refugee children and to avoid discrimination of non-camp refugee children (Italy);**

149.46. **Prevent use of its territory by foreign terrorist fighters who are engaged in massive human rights violations (Armenia).**

150. **The following recommendations will be examined by Turkey, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, taking place in June and July 2015:**

150.1. **Ratify the international instruments that have not been ratified yet (Côte d'Ivoire);**

150.2. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and harmonise its national legislation with it, including the integration of the provisions to fully cooperate with the Court, and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and crimes of war before their national courts (Madagascar);**

150.3. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC (Estonia);**

150.4. **Accede to the statute of the International Criminal Court and ratify the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (Honduras);**

150.5. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC (France); Accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC (Uruguay); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Timor-Leste); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Poland); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Portugal); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Luxembourg); Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Ghana);**

150.6. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC (Latvia);**

150.7. **Accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (Madagascar);**

150.8. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);**

150.9. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);**

150.10. **Consider ratifying ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

150.11. **Abolish any statutory limits on crimes by government officials, like torture, extrajudicial killings, and disappearances, both in respect to legal investigations as well as prosecutions (Netherlands);**

150.12. **Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including a clear definition of discrimination against women (Iceland);**

150.13. **Amend the provisions on libel and defamation so that they cannot be abused to prosecute human rights defenders and journalists (Czech Republic);**

150.14. **Amend Law No. 5651, widely known as the Internet Law, to ensure the right to seek, receive, and impart information in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression (Canada);**

150.15. **Amend article 26 of the Constitution to ensure that the permissible grounds for restricting the right to freedom of expression are consistent with international human rights norms (Spain);**

150.16. **Favourably consider revising the new Internet Law in order for its citizens to enjoy better access to the Internet thereby further ensuring their right to freedom of expression and opinion (Republic of Korea);**

150.17. **Amend the Internet Law in order to guarantee the free exercise of freedom of expression, among others, by ensuring that the Telecommunications Authority cannot block websites without judicial authorization (Spain);**

150.18. **Repeal those provisions of the Criminal Code which unfairly limit freedom of expression, including articles 301, 318, 215 and 125, to bring the law in line with international standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);**

150.19. **Bring relevant provisions of the Criminal Code in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) repealing the restrictions of freedom of expression (Lithuania);**

150.20. **Fully align the Internet law with international and European standards (Iceland);**

150.21. **Revise the Internet Law so that the powers of the authorities to block or remove the Internet content are exercised strictly in line with international standards on the right to freedom of expression and ensure that the internet can serve as a platform for free exchange of information, including dissenting views (Czech Republic);**

150.22. **Reform the law on counter-terrorism in order to prevent imprisonment of journalists (France);**

150.23. **Explicitly recognise the right to peaceful assembly by redrafting the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations to remove provisions that criminalise peaceful participation in demonstrations (Ireland);**

150.24. **Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including a prohibition on discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Israel);**

150.25. **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to prevent all forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnic, religious, sexual orientation or gender identity grounds (Chile);**

150.26. **Take further measures to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, aiming at eliminating discrimination against women, especially women from minority groups, women with disabilities, migrant women and women asylum seekers (Namibia);**

150.27. **Review relevant legislation to ensure that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited (Croatia);**

150.28. **Strengthen anti-hate and anti-discrimination legislation in the Turkish Penal Code, specifically article 122, by prohibiting hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation (Canada);**

150.29. **Take effective measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Action Plan fully embraces the recommendations already accepted by Turkey within the framework of the UPR (Kenya);**

150.30. **Adopt measures to prohibit and prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);**

150.31. **Promote measures against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including the investigation, and, where appropriate, the sanction of those responsible of acts of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons (Argentina);**

150.32. **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and take measures to prevent and combat discrimination on any grounds, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and religion (Brazil);**

150.33. **Deal with cases of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, both in law and in practice, by publishing disaggregated data on complaints of violence against LGBTI persons (Chile);**

150.34. **Focus on the overall implementation of its non-discriminatory provisions and to extend them to include the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The implementation of overall anti-discrimination policies in Turkey should include all forms of discrimination (Finland);**

150.35. **Intensify its commitment to working constructively with religious and other minorities, to address their grievances, including those of Alevi groups and the status of cemevis (Australia);**

150.36. **Put an end to mandatory religion courses for the "Alevis" (France);**

150.37. **Overcome the continuous lack of legal personality for non-Muslim organized religious communities and to ensure the necessary respect for the beliefs of religious minorities, especially following the introduction of compulsory religious education in Turkish schools (Italy);**

150.38. **Remove restrictions on freedom of expression under article 26 of the Constitution (Canada);**

150.39. **Bring relevant provisions of the Turkish Criminal Code in line with article 19 of the ICCPR, to ensure freedom of expression and to create an environment conducive to free journalism and media (Poland);**

150.40. **Align its legislation and practices with international standards on freedom of expression, particularly regarding the restrictions imposed to freedom of expression in article 26 of the Constitution (Belgium);**

150.41. **Guarantee free access to media without any discrimination to all institutions which require specific accreditation (France);**

150.42. **Bring the Internet Law in line with International and European standards, including case law of the European Court of Human Rights on the rights to freedom of expression and to privacy (Estonia);**

150.43. **Decriminalize defamation and to ensure that the restriction of the right to freedom of expression, also the freedom of peaceful assembly and association, are consistent with international human rights standards (Estonia);**

150.44. **Amend or repeal all policies that restrict the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and the right to access information and free press (Israel);**

150.45. **Amend the criminal legislation in order to eliminate obstacles to freedom of expression and to freedom of association (Uruguay);**

150.46. **Continue to actively prevent discrimination of minorities through enacting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including a prohibition on discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity (Denmark);**

150.47. **Implement legislation that increases protection of the rights of persons belonging to minority religious groups, including the status of their places of worship (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

150.48. **Allow children of Greek citizens working in Istanbul to attend the Greek minority schools as fully-fledged students (Greece);**

150.49. **Consider teaching of minority languages in public schools (Slovenia);**

150.50. **Adopt legal and administrative measures aimed at eliminating from the law on Immigration and International Protection the geographical restrictions in the asylum procedure, guaranteeing adequate and fair treatment to persons seeking international protection (Argentina);**

150.51. **Take further efforts to curb discriminatory treatment of non-European refugees and asylum-seekers (India);**

150.52. **Exercise restraint using anti-terrorism legislation in legal procedures against journalists and ensure the proportionality of measures that limit access to the internet (Netherlands).**

151. **The recommendations listed below did not enjoy the support of Turkey:**

151.1. **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) (Uruguay);**

151.2. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

151.3. **Sign and ratify the ICPPED and recognize the competence of its Committee (France);**

151.4. **Consider the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

151.5. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Cyprus);**

151.6. **Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Rwanda); Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Latvia);**

151.7. **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ghana); Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Portugal);**

151.8. **Ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Armenia);**

151.9. **Ratify Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (Cyprus);**

151.10. **Comply with the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights concerning violations of human rights in the areas of Cyprus that are under effective control of Turkey (Greece);**

151.11. **Implement without further delay all relevant judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, including those in which grave human rights violations by Turkey have been established in the occupied areas of Cyprus under effective control of Turkey (Cyprus);**

151.12. **Adopt laws recognizing and regulating the right to conscientious objections and ensure that the civilian alternative to military service has no punitive or discriminatory effects (Croatia);**

151.13. **Adopt laws that recognize and guarantee the right to conscientious objection to military service, ensuring that any genuinely civilian alternative is not punitive in length (Germany);**

151.14. **Recognize the right to conscientious objection and to offer a civilian alternative to military service (Slovenia);**

151.15. **Amend or revoke legislation, such as the "Anti-Terror Law" and the "Law on Meetings and Demonstrations", ensuring their provisions cannot be misused (Cyprus);**

151.16. **Take steps in order to enhance and promote gender equality in all walks of life (Cyprus);**

151.17. **Ensure that senior State officials refrain from public statements degrading to women and inconsistent with the Turkish constitution and Islamic values (Egypt);**

151.18. **Abolish all statutory time limits pertaining to the investigation of and prosecution for serious human rights violations (Cyprus);**

151.19. **Allow all religious or belief communities to train their religious instructors in accordance with their own dogma and traditions (Cyprus);**

151.20. **Grant the Ecumenical Patriarchate an adequate legal personality (Greece);**

151.21. **Ensure the protection of all components of the right to freedom of religion or belief, as protected under the ICCPR, including by withdrawing its reservations to article 27 on minority rights (Canada);**

151.22. **Ensure the rights of religious minorities, to enhance access to education in the language of minorities, to withdraw the reservation to article 27 of ICCPR regarding minorities and to ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Austria);**

151.23. **Undertake adequate steps concerning the property claims of persons from Bulgarian identity from eastern Thrace as previously recommended (Bulgaria);**

151.24. **Control its borders, effectively, to prevent the movement of terrorist groups, including those benefiting from transnational organized crime (Syrian Arab Republic);**

151.25. **Genuine and full commitment to international treaties and resolutions combating terrorism, especially Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) (Syrian Arab Republic);**

151.26. **Refrain from undertaking actions beyond its borders that contribute to violations and abuses of human rights, including through immediate termination of any relevant form of political, military, logistical or financial support in this regard (Egypt);**

151.27. **Put an end to the unilateral economic coercive measures, including blockade against Armenia, which violates human rights including social, economic and cultural rights (Armenia).**

152. **The recommendations in paragraphs 151.5, 151.9, 151.11, 151.15, 151.16, 151.18, and 151.19 did not enjoy the support of Turkey, as Turkey does neither recognize Republic of Cyprus nor accept its claims to represent the whole island.**

153. **The recommendation in paragraph 151.10 did not enjoy the support of Turkey, as Turkey stressed that its presence in the island stems from the rights and obligations within international treaties.**

154. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

*[English only]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Turkey was headed by H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Ms. Nesrin Çelik, Undersecretary, Ministry of Family and Social Policies;
- Mr. Aziz Yıldırım, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Basat Öztürk, Ambassador, Director General of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Adnan Ertem, Director General of Foundations, Prime Ministry;
- Ms. Kıvılcım Kılıç, Deputy Director General for the Council of Europe and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Yavuz Evirgen, Deputy Director General, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister;
- Mr. Berk Baran, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Halil Ibrahim Dizman, Head of Department, Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Arif Çangal, Head of Security Department, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Zekai Erdem, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Olgun Altundaş, Deputy Chief Legal Adviser, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Ahmet Ulutaş, Counsellor (Legal Affairs), Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Ibrahim Hakkı Beyazıt, Judge, Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Hüseyin Kök, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister;
- Mr. Umut Deniz, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Hasan Emre Uygun, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Selçuk Özcan, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Ms. Muzaffer Uyav Gültekin, First Secretary, Deputy Directorate General for Council of Europe and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Handan Sayer, Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Policies;
- Ms. Gözde Özkorul, Assistant Expert, Ministry of Interior;

- Mr. Yusuf Izzettin Çelebi, Press Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister;
- Ms. Zeynep Bekdik, Interpreter;
- Ms. Hande Güner, Interpreter.

United Nations A/HRC/29/16

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 April 2015

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**
**Twenty-ninth session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal Periodic Review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Guyana

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.15-07627 (E)
*1507627*

Please recycle

# Contents


| | | *Paragraphs* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Introduction | 1–4 | 3 |
| I. | Summary of the proceedings of the review process | 5–129 | 3 |
| | A. Presentation by the State under review | 5–41 | 3 |
| | B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review | 42–129 | 7 |
| II. | Conclusions and/or recommendations | 130–133 | 15 |
| Annex | | | |
| | Composition of the delegation | | 25 |

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Guyana was held at the 15th meeting on 28 January 2015. The delegation of Guyana was headed by Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett. At its 18th meeting, held on 30 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Guyana.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Guyana: Ethiopia, Portugal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Guyana:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Guyana through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented the national report for the second UPR of Guyana as well as the status of the implementation of the recommendations made at the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council in 2010.

6. The delegation recalled that, as highlighted in the national report, Guyana had submitted State party reports to various treaty bodies. Guyana had also submitted to the International Labour Organization (ILO) 80 per cent of its reports that had been outstanding.

7. Additionally, during the reporting period, Guyana had ratified or acceded to several conventions, and was actively considering ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

8. The delegation expressed its concern that the national report had not been posted in a timely manner for the benefit of the various delegations; many of the questions submitted in advance related to issues that had been addressed in the report.

9. Guyana had voluntarily committed to hold consultations on 28 of the 55 recommendations. Those included recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty, on the abolition of corporal punishment, on the decriminalization of consensual same-sex

adult sexual relations and on discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, and on the age of criminality.

10. As part of the consultative process, following the elections in 2011, a decision had been taken to bring those recommendations before the National Assembly. The Government had therefore tabled a motion and asked that those matters be sent to a Parliamentary Special Select Committee. The motion had been approved by the National Assembly; a Parliamentary Special Select Committee had been appointed and had commenced meeting in 2012.

11. The Select Committee had not concluded its work at the time of reporting but had commenced by focusing on the abolition of corporal punishment. Public hearings had been held and submissions had been received from government agencies, civil society and experts. It had become evident during the hearings that the abolition of corporal punishment in schools remained an issue on which sections of society were staunchly and equally divided. Nonetheless, the delegation highlighted the enactment of the Training School (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Act 2010, which abolished corporal punishment in juvenile correctional institutions. Also, the new Child Care and Development Services Act (2011) prohibited corporal punishment in institutional residences.

12. Although the Parliamentary Special Select Committee had not completed its mandate with regard to the recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty, the Criminal Law Offences (Amendment) Act No. 21 of 2010 had removed the mandatory death penalty for persons convicted of murder and made provisions for life imprisonment and imprisonment with the possibility of parole. The death penalty was retained only in limited cases, such as the murder of a police officer on duty or a judicial officer, or treason. As a result, during the past five years more than 15 prisoners on death row had had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment; some of those prisoners would be coming up for parole. At the time of reporting there were 13 prisoners on death row. During the period under review no prisoner on death row had been executed.

13. The Parliamentary Special Select Committee also had a mandate to receive and hear submissions on the attitude of Guyanese regarding changes in legislative provisions and the Criminal Code regarding consensual adult same-sex relationships and discrimination, perceived or real, against LGBT persons. Due to the prorogation of the tenth Parliament, the Committee's work had ceased. The Government hoped to resubmit those matters to the National Assembly following general elections in May.

14. During the reporting period, there had been unfettered freedom of expression by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious organizations and the media on LGBT issues. In response to an NGO submission on LGBT rights in Guyana, the Government wished to reiterate that the State did not discriminate against persons based on their sexual orientation and that every Guyanese was entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms as provided for in the Constitution, laws and policies of Guyana.

15. Consultations had been held across the country by the Ministry of Education on the abolition of corporal punishment.

16. The delegation highlighted the Low Carbon Development Strategy and the Guyana-Norway partnership. Under the partnership, Guyana was targeted to earn up to US$ 250 million for its forest climate services. The funds earned were being used for the implementation of projects and initiatives identified in the Low Carbon Development Strategy; a significant portion had gone to interventions that focused on the indigenous population.

17. Much had been accomplished with regard to the recommendations on poverty reduction and equal access to education, water, health, housing and food security for the poor and vulnerable, including indigenous peoples. The delegation highlighted, among other things: the poverty reduction programme and pro-poor pro-growth development approach; continuous investments in the social sector, which now received 34.5 per cent of the annual budget; and the enactment of a national minimum wage in 2013.

18. Progress within the education sector had been significant. The Millennium Development Goals Guyana Progress Report 2011 had indicated that Guyana had made excellent progress towards achieving universal primary education and had met its target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

19. The education sector had played a critical role in equalizing access to opportunities for children regardless of where they lived or their ethnicity, religion or class. That was most evident in the interior and Amerindian communities, where all children had access to nursery and primary education and over 90 per cent had access to secondary education. The delegation provided detailed information on programmes and initiatives implemented in the area of education.

20. Health care services offered by the Government remained free of charge. In 2014, 96 per cent of all births were attended by skilled health personnel, in comparison to 85.6 per cent in previous years. Guyana continued to offer free treatment for the prevention of mother to child transmission and free antiretroviral treatment at its facilities; however, those programmes were under pressure due to the reduction of international funding to assist small developing countries. Immunization coverage in Guyana remained high in all rural and hinterland areas, despite challenges regarding the high cost of gaining access to remote areas.

21. The national housing programme continued to provide subsidized house lots for poor families and low- and middle-income families. Through a number of legislative measures and Government/commercial bank partnerships, low-income households could gain access to loans to build their houses. Additionally, by the end of 2013, 18,000 households in squatter settlements that had emerged over three decades had been regularized, with Certificates of Title to Land being provided.

22. The supply of potable water currently reached in excess of 95 per cent of the population in the coastal areas and 73 per cent in the hinterland areas.

23. Guyana had been honoured by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for attaining the targets set as part of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the goal set by the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the absolute number of hungry people by 2015 and improving nutrition. The prevalence of undernourishment had been reduced from 19.1 per cent (1990–1992) to 5.1 per cent (2010 and 2012).

24. In recognition of the historic injustices perpetrated against the Amerindian peoples, the revised Guyana Constitution and the Amerindian Act 2006 provided for and guaranteed Amerindian land rights, governance and culture for the Amerindian population. Amerindians were currently the second-largest land owners in Guyana, with the State being the first. They owned communal land titles totalling 14 per cent of the country's land mass. A total of 103 Amerindian villages had been awarded absolute grants and 83 had been demarcated thus far. The delegation indicated that the Government had continued to channel resources toward the development of Amerindian communities, and reported on numerous initiatives. Guyana would continue to give consideration to ratifying the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

25. The delegation reported on efforts to address discrimination based on culture and traditions and to promote and protect the rights of all citizens. It highlighted the enactment

of the Judicial Review Act 2010, the appointment of an Ombudsman in January 2014, the recent parliamentary approval of the Ethnic Relations Commission, the functioning of numerous institutions and the implementation of a number of initiatives.

26. Guyana had made major progress towards promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. In its Global Gender Gap Report 2013, the World Economic Forum had ranked Guyana 33rd out of 136 in the area of overall political empowerment. The country ranked 41st in the Report for wage equality for similar work.

27. Better-coordinated efforts were being made with regard to persons with disabilities since the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act. Those efforts would continue to improve as Guyana strove to implement its treaty obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

28. Guyana was part of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission, which called for reparations relating to Africans who had been enslaved and brought to work in the British, French, Dutch and Spanish colonies. Guyana had established a broad-based committee which was preparing the country's submission to CARICOM on its reparations claims for the former colonial powers.

29. The delegation indicated that although there had been some reduction, interpersonal violence, including sexual and domestic violence, continued to cause grave concern. The delegation highlighted some achievements and challenges in that area. In July 2014, the National Task Force on Sexual Violence had held a special session to review the draft protocols for the police, prosecutors, magistrates, social workers and medical practitioners under the Sexual Offences Act 2010 and to examine the new draft action plan. With the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the plan of action had been completed and was submitted in January 2015 for Cabinet review. The draft protocols and new regulations to strengthen the 1996 Domestic Violence Act had also been completed.

30. Over the past four years, the media, civil society and community and faith-based organizations had played a more proactive role with regard to combating violence against women and children.

31. The total number of reports of domestic violence had decreased by more than 50 per cent, and the number of persons charged increased from 25 per cent to 52 percent. While the number of persons charged and sentenced by Magistrates for domestic violence offences had increased significantly, the number of successful prosecutions and convictions of sexual offences had been disappointing.

32. The delegation recalled information provided in its national report on legislative reforms to enhance the protection of children's rights. The Child Care and Protection Agency had continued to investigate child abuse cases reported throughout the country. The delegation expressed its regret that the draft Juvenile Justice Bill was still not complete and that, as a result, Guyana had been unable to implement the recommendation with regard to the age of criminality.

33. The delegation also highlighted efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including the work of the broad-based Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.

34. Guyana had taken major steps and made significant financial investments in the justice sector. A number of initiatives had been introduced to improve oversight, monitoring and accountability and to enhance coordination within the sector. Such initiatives included establishing civil and criminal justice committees; increasing the number of judges; and removing the annual budget of the judiciary from under the Ministry of Legal Affairs and establishing it as a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund to enhance its independence.

35. The delegation reiterated that the Constitution strictly prohibited torture and mistreatment of detainees and inmates, and that the Government had publicly condemned abuse and torture and had repeatedly demanded that any such allegations be expeditiously investigated and action taken. In 2014, several police ranks had been brought before the courts, including for abuse and torture in lock-ups. Additionally, in an effort to strengthen its investigative capacity, the Police Complaints Authority would be establishing its own investigative unit in order to conduct investigations independent of the Guyana Police Force.

36. As a result of major disturbances in July 2012, which resulted in three protestors being shot, a commission of inquiry had been set up. Although the commission had been unable to find that it was the police who had shot the protestors, it recommended that compensation be provided for those who had suffered losses in the violence and that the police protocols with regard to public order and safety be reviewed and amended. The Government and the Guyana Police Force had implemented those recommendations.

37. The delegation reported on efforts to improve conditions in police lock-ups and prisons, highlighting the 2014 strategic plan on the renewal and reconstruction of the Guyana Prison Service and the appointment of a visiting committee for each prison (provided for under the Prison Act) to monitor prison conditions.

38. The delegation expressed conviction that the constitutional rights commissions in Guyana formed a critical component of the protection of human rights. In accordance with legislation, the commissions were to be funded by a direct charge upon the Consolidated Fund, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). However, until such time as the umbrella Human Rights Commission was appointed, in compliance with the Constitution, Guyana, regrettably, would not be fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

39. With regard to the special procedures, the delegation reiterated the readiness of Guyana to continue to respond to invitations and to offer full collaboration with mandate holders.

40. Positive achievements had been tempered and sometimes overshadowed by the political situation that had emerged since the November 2011 elections. The ruling party had one seat fewer than the two opposition parties combined, and the tenth Parliament had witnessed the reduction of the annual budgets by the opposition majority, which had a major impact on the implementation of the national development agenda. Following a no-confidence motion in 2014, the President announced elections, which would be held on 11 May 2015.

41. Guyana had made significant efforts to meet most of the commitments it had made in 2010, despite the many challenges associated with small developing States. Such challenges included climate change and the imposition of the "graduation" policy, using the narrow measure of gross domestic product per capita, which would see countries like Guyana losing concessionary financing. Notwithstanding those challenges, Guyana would continue to make efforts to support the role of the United Nations human rights system, including the UPR, within available means and prevailing conditions, even as it strove to continuously improve the lives of its citizens.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

42. During the interactive dialogue, 54 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

43. Ireland welcomed the positive efforts undertaken by Guyana since its first UPR. It encouraged Guyana to extend a standing invitation to special procedures and establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. It urged a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition. Ireland raised concerns about the criminalization of adult same-sex relations and the rate of under-five child mortality.

44. Italy commended the progress achieved in the protection of human rights, in particular the measures taken in promoting women's rights.

45. Jamaica noted with appreciation the follow-up to the accepted recommendations from the first UPR cycle through legislation and various initiatives in a wide range of areas related to human rights. It lauded the tremendous strides made in ensuring access to education and food security for all Guyanese. It commended the continued efforts to safeguard access to land for indigenous people.

46. Kuwait praised the efforts made in improving the human rights situation in the fields of poverty, education, health care, reform of the justice system and gender equality. It encouraged further efforts for child protection and to combat human trafficking.

47. Maldives commended the ratification of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the adoption of the Child Care and Development Services Act of 2011. It welcomed the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2010, the ratification of CRPD and the implementation of the National Commission on Disability's strategic plan for 2008–2011.

48. Mauritius congratulated Guyana for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education and encouraged it to pursue its strategic plan on education for 2014–2018 and the Hinterland Education Improvement Project. It encouraged the strengthening of the anti-discrimination legislation to further promote the inclusion of women in the socioeconomic development of the country in line with Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommendations.

49. Mexico highlighted advances such as the appointment of the head of the Ombudsman's office and the adherence to several international instruments. It urged Guyana to adopt necessary measures to ensure transparency during the 2015 elections and suggested that Guyana ask the United Nations for assistance in complying with human rights commitments.

50. Montenegro welcomed the ratification of several human rights treaty bodies since the last UPR. Montenegro asked Guyana to elaborate on the steps taken to address the continuing prevalence of trafficking in women and girls and to protect the victims of trafficking. It also inquired about the implementation of comprehensive programmes to address health issues affecting infants, girls and women.

51. Morocco welcomed the ratification of several international instruments since the last UPR cycle, namely, those related to trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation. It commended Guyana on the nomination of an Ombudsperson in 2014 and the establishment of institutions to protect children's rights, including the rights of indigenous and Amerindian children. It noted the adoption of the national strategy on health and the establishment of the national commission for disabled persons.

52. Namibia took note of the legislative reform regarding the death penalty and its substitution with imprisonment. It commended the appointment of an Ombudsperson in January 2014 and the support provided to the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

53. The Netherlands noted with appreciation the enactment of legislation to strengthen the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. It raised concerns regarding

the pending debates on the follow-up to the UPR recommendations, given the prorogation of the Parliament.

54. Nicaragua highlighted the commitment of the Government of Guyana to combat discrimination against minority groups, indigenous peoples, women and children, and welcomed the increased participation of women in public administration and the reforms to the laws on domestic violence.

55. Norway raised concerns regarding the high level of impunity for violence against women and children and the use of excessive force by the Guyana Police and Defence Forces. It took note of the country's commitment to promote indigenous peoples' rights and the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Commission to address discrimination faced by Amerindian children.

56. Panama urged Guyana to offer a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders, particularly to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, a recommendation that Guyana had accepted in the context of its previous examination.

57. Paraguay welcomed the approval of the law on sexual offences, while expressing concern about the levels of physical and sexual violence against women and girls. It expressed concern that Guyana maintained the death penalty for several criminal offences, and encouraged it to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

58. The Philippines lauded the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as CRPD and two Optional Protocols to CRC. It noted the remarkable progress in ensuring access to universal primary education, gender equality, women's empowerment and the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and Sexual Offences Act.

59. Portugal welcomed the ratification of CRPD. It raised concerns about the inclusion of the death penalty in the legislation of Guyana.

60. Romania noted the efforts made to improve the human rights situation in the country and acknowledged the concrete measure and results. It encouraged Guyana to pursue its work on improving the protection and promotion of human rights.

61. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction steps taken to implement a number of international agreements, including those to combat human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. It expressed its appreciation for efforts to carry out legislative and judicial reforms to improve the system of administration of justice.

62. Singapore welcomed the efforts of Guyana to invest in the health sector and noted that it was implementing the Maternal, Perinatal Strategy and Integrated Child Health Strategy 2011–2015. It also commended the achievements of the National Housing Programme.

63. Slovenia welcomed the implementation of two of its first-cycle recommendations. It continued to call for a complete abolition of the death penalty, and expressed regret that consensual homosexual relations continued to be criminalized. It reiterated its past recommendations, namely, Nos. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49.

64. South Africa welcomed progress in the development of a national food and nutrition security strategy, the development of the draft sexual and reproductive health policy and the implementation of the country's poverty reduction programmes. It encouraged Guyana to continue all efforts towards promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights.

65. Spain highlighted positively the adoption of a national policy on domestic violence. It expressed concerns about Guyana's votes against General Assembly resolutions on a moratorium on the death penalty, about the number of allegations presented against the police of Guyana regarding excessive use of force and about the lack of effective and independent investigation into such allegations.

66. Sweden noted that rape was quite common and that the inclination to report rapes was rather low. It further noted that violence against women was a significant problem, and that indigenous peoples had a lower standard of living than the majority society.

67. Switzerland encouraged Guyana to pursue its efforts to ratify international instruments. It welcomed the commitment made by Guyana to organize national and public consultations on the recommendations from its first UPR.

68. Thailand noted that discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as violence against women, remained a challenge. It encouraged Guyana to further implement education and awareness-raising programmes to help promote the inclusion and participation of children with disabilities in society.

69. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act, the adoption of the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act and the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Commission.

70. Trinidad and Tobago highlighted, inter alia, the development of an action plan to combat human trafficking, an increase in awareness campaigns regarding sexual abuse, and the drafting of a sexual and reproductive health policy.

71. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Guyana to ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and to establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty.

72. The United States of America welcomed Guyana's voluntary commitments to hold national consultations on issues from its first UPR session. It remained deeply concerned by continued and widespread reports of excessive violence by police officers.

73. Uruguay welcomed the country's adherence to international human rights instruments, and encouraged Guyana to continue to work on the promotion of education for children, addressing the issues of non-attendance at school and transport and nutrition costs, in order to reduce illiteracy.

74. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted with appreciation the strategic plan for the reduction of poverty (2011–2015), which targeted the most vulnerable segments of the population. It praised the establishment of the national minimum wage in 2013 and the allocation of 34.5 per cent of the 2014 Annual Budget to education, health, water, housing and social security.

75. Algeria noted that, despite the challenges and difficulties in terms of resources, Guyana has adopted a number of initiatives to implement the recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR. It encouraged Guyana to continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

76. Argentina welcomed the members of the delegation of Guyana and congratulated them for their national report.

77. While noting the efforts to increase the quality of and access to education, Armenia also noted that Guyana had not yet ratified a number of international human rights instruments, and referred to a number of challenges in the promotion of the right to education.

78. Australia welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the accession to the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It remained concerned that Guyana had not yet implemented its national policy on domestic violence, and noted with concern that Guyana had rejected recommendations to establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty.

79. Botswana commended Guyana for the progress made towards achieving universal primary education and eliminating gender disparity at school. It encouraged Guyana to enhance cooperation with OHCHR to address challenges that it continued to face.

80. Brazil welcomed the fact that the vacant position of Ombudsman had been filled, and underscored the importance of providing the Ombudsman with appropriate funding and staff for the fulfilment of his mandate.

81. Canada asked Guyana to provide information on the measures taken to address challenges to freedom of expression and to prevent and investigate instances of intimidation or violence against the media.

82. Chile acknowledged the efforts Guyana had made to comprehensively strengthen the human rights sector, in particular with regard to respect for civil and political rights. It noted with appreciation that the ratified international instruments had already been transposed into domestic law.

83. China noted that Guyana supported measures to facilitate the reintegration of and free vocational training for trafficked persons. It called upon the international community to increase financial and technical assistance for Guyana.

84. Colombia praised the commitment demonstrated by Guyana in its efforts to implement the recommendations made during the first UPR cycle. It also appreciated the country's transparent collaboration with the human rights mechanisms.

85. Costa Rica highlighted the ratification of CRPD and Optional Protocols to CRC. It expressed its appreciation for the country's efforts and achievements in the areas of gender equality and access of women to public elections and positions of power. Costa Rica stressed the negative impact of the use of the death penalty and torture.

86. Cuba noted that Guyana demonstrated its commitment to protecting and promoting human rights. It highlighted the progress made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in general, and acknowledged the actions taken to recognize the rights of all Afro-descendants.

87. Denmark expressed hope that concrete steps were under way to honour the commitment made by Guyana to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and added that the Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to explore avenues to assist Guyana in advancing that issue.

88. Ecuador commended Guyana for the efforts it had made to implement the recommendations from the first cycle, in particular the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

89. While acknowledging the progress made in the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights, Estonia expressed disappointment that decisions on mining on lands used by indigenous people could still be taken without the consent of those people.

90. France asked Guyana about the results of consultations that, during its previous UPR, it had committed to hold on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, on the state of its legislation regarding the relations between consenting adults of the same sex and on violence committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and identity.

91. While expressing its appreciation for the ratification and accession by Guyana to various international instruments, Germany remained concerned that the de facto moratorium on the death penalty had not yet been translated into law.

92. Ghana expressed its satisfaction with the efforts deployed by Guyana to meet most of the commitments made since the first UPR cycle, aimed at strengthening the constitutional, legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

93. Guatemala welcomed the nomination of the Ombudsman, as well as the establishment of a national task force and the elaboration of a national action plan, both to fight human trafficking.

94. India asked Guyana to share more details on its efforts to reduce poverty and hunger, and expressed hope that the implementation of the national food and nutritional strategy was being prioritized.

95. Indonesia commended Guyana for the achievements made in the area of poverty reduction and the ratification of CRDP. It also acknowledged the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act.

96. Sierra Leone highlighted the commendable efforts made by Guyana towards progress in economic, social and cultural rights. It urged Guyana to consider including in its Constitution provisions prohibiting discrimination of women, to tackle more vigorously the issue of trafficking in women and girls, and to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.

97. The delegation of Guyana thanked countries that had acknowledged its efforts and progress achieved and expressed thanks for recommendations made.

98. Regarding concerns by Ireland about under-five child mortality, the delegation indicated that infant mortality in 1991 had been 120 per 1,000 and that in 2014 it had been reduced to 17 per 1,000, which meant there was progress but work had to continue.

99. Regarding the abolition of the death penalty or the establishment of a moratorium, raised by many delegations, Guyana had amended its law to commute some death sentences to life imprisonment and had added the possibility of parole. The delegation affirmed that, while it had not reached the point of abolishing the death penalty, discussions were continuing. In addition, the Parliament had been prorogued and therefore the work of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee had not been completed.

100. Three issues, namely, the abolition of the death penalty, the decriminalization of same-sex relations between adult males and other LGBT matters, and corporal punishment were to be considered by the Select Committee. The delegation underscored that compared to 2010, in 2014 and 2015 there had been an increase in discussions on those issues, which was a good sign. The society was very divided on the issues; it was sometimes a challenge to talk to citizens about the death penalty when some countries in the region were seeking to activate the death penalty because of the high rate of criminality. However, discussions were continuing in Guyana.

101. Regarding the strengthening of the Police Complaints Authority, raised by Italy, it had been decided that the Authority would establish its own investigative arm. The delegation of Guyana recalled that in the past, the police had been responsible for investigating; it could be concluded that if the police investigated the police, the required

impartiality would be lacking. Thus, the independent investigative arm would prove to be a boost to the Police Complaints Authority. There was a need for more resources for the Authority, which should be considered in the context of how the national economy was doing; there had been increases in resources throughout the years.

102. As regards access to land for indigenous people, the delegation of Guyana noted that some delegations had raised the issue of discrimination, including with respect to Amerindian children. The delegation indicated that if there was discrimination as far as the State was concerned, it was positive discrimination. Most Amerindian communities were located in the vast interior, so the delivery of services was not only costly but also very challenging. Road networks and telecommunication had been improved. In order to ensure that children had access to education, secondary schools were being built with dormitories to cater to a number of communities in those areas, fully funded by the State. In addition, a State-funded scholarship programme was in place for hinterland children, and over 90 per cent of hinterland children were Amerindians.

103. There were gaps that needed to be filled; thus, the Hinterland Education Improvement programme had been established to ensure full access in the hinterland not only to nursery and primary education, which was already covered, but also to secondary education.

104. About 14 years ago there was just one Amerindian doctor; now, with the help of Cuba, hundreds of doctors had been trained, including Amerindian doctors, many of whom had attended secondary schools in their communities, showing a measure of progress.

105. Child protection was a work in progress. The delegation emphasized that the Child Protection Agency was very active and that efforts would continue in that regard.

106. On discrimination against persons with disabilities, the delegation reported that Guyana had not only passed a law on the subject but had also ratified CRPD. Necessary measures were being taken in both public and private institutions, including banks. The State was working with Cuba to establish in Guyana a centre for training persons with disabilities, a project that would benefit not only Guyana but the entire Caribbean community.

107. On the question of discrimination and violence against women, the delegation expressed regret that it could not report any massive improvement. Efforts at the State level on the matter would continue and would be intensified. The plans of action on domestic violence and on sexual offences had been submitted and considered. The plan of action on domestic violence was already in operation. That area required much research in addition to the measures already put in place.

108. The delegation affirmed that, according to one school of thought, some men were not reacting positively to the increased awareness by women of their rights and the increased independence of women. Much work needed to be undertaken with men in that regard. If in the past women had been subservient and had accepted whatever they were told by their male counterparts, that had changed.

109. Guyana was working on parity in education at the tertiary level, where almost two thirds of those attending university were women, a challenge for males both nationally and in the entire Caribbean community. Regarding school drop-out rates, at the nursery and primary levels more schools had to be built, because attendance was high; overall there had been an increase in school attendance.

110. Regarding elections and the need for transparency, the per capita costs of the elections held prior to the most recent ones had been ranked as the second highest in the world, owing to the number of layers of transparency operating. Guyana had sought observers from the Commonwealth, the Organization of American States, the Union of

South American Nations and CARICOM. Therefore, the delegation trusted that the next elections would be transparent, once all the measures were put in place.

111. On judicial training, as it related to women's rights, work had been carried out with the police and prosecutors, and seven domestic violence units, in each of the police divisions, had been established.

112. On trafficking of women and trafficking of persons in general, the delegation asserted that a task force was already working on those issues. There was no evidence of widespread trafficking, but work had been undertaken with several ministries.

113. Regarding reproductive health services, the delegation had noticed in one of the reports prepared for the UPR that a complaint had been made about a case where contraceptives were not provided to children of a certain age. The delegation said it would look into the complaint. Additional resources had been provided regarding reproductive health services.

114. On the matter of the eradication of poverty, the delegation mentioned the measures outlined in its national report, and expressed its satisfaction that Guyana had been able to reduce poverty, meet most of the Millennium Development Goals and improve nutrition.

115. The delegation underscored that Guyana would continue to give consideration to the recommendations regarding various protocols and conventions, including the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

116. On the intervention of the Netherlands, which referred to a political standstill, the delegation clarified that, faced with a no-confidence motion, which if passed would have immediately seen the country go to elections in three months, the President had decided to prorogue the Parliament in order to preserve its life and invite the opposition to dialogue. Prorogation could last only for six months. If elections were held and had the same results, there would still be a need for dialogue. Given that the President wanted one last opportunity to try to dialogue with the Opposition, the Parliament had been prorogued. The offer of dialogue had not been accepted by the Opposition and the President had since announced that elections would be held on 11 May.

117. Addressing the claim of the Netherlands that owing to that situation the debate on the follow-up of the UPR recommendations could not continue, the delegation affirmed that the Parliamentary Special Select Committee examining LGBT matters and the abolition of the death penalty and corporal punishment was still functioning and had not concluded its work at the time of prorogation. Consequently, those matters were not ready to be debated in the National Assembly. The Government hoped that those issues would be taken back to the National Assembly when it was reconvened.

118. The delegation affirmed it was not happy that the Juvenile Justice Bill had not been presented to Parliament; that would be taken back to Parliament when it was reconvened.

119. Guyana was always open to having officials from the United Nations system visit the country and to working with them.

120. Regarding issues of excessive use of force, mistreatment and extrajudicial killings, the delegation said that it was not aware of any extrajudicial killings during the reporting period, although there had been one in 2011. The national report included what Guyana had been doing in terms of addressing reported excesses by the Guyana Police Force; efforts would continue.

121. On comments by Norway on the credibility of the judiciary, the delegation asserted that it could not state that the judiciary in Guyana was not credible. All branches of Government had to be strengthened, including the judiciary.

122. On consultation with indigenous peoples, the delegation stated that there were several indigenous NGOs. However, the Government dealt more with the elected representatives of the indigenous communities. All of the indigenous leaders met every year at the National Toshaos Council, and every one of them had an opportunity to interact directly with the President and the ministers. That was where a lot of the consultation with indigenous leaders took place, and where indigenous peoples put forward their plans and programmes, such as the community development plans that were presented for inclusion in the national budget. The delegation considered that the consultation and involvement of indigenous peoples in all matters of life, including politics, had never been as robust as it was now.

123. On the issue raised by Romania regarding the Women and Gender Equality Commission, the delegation affirmed that Guyana would continue to allocate the necessary resources to the Commission, and that it was also looking for the support of international partners.

124. Regarding a comprehensive national strategy to prevent various forms of violence against children, the delegation reported that information had been provided in the national report, but it understood that States had not seen the report earlier.

125. Regarding the legal services in the hinterland, Guyana had expanded those services and had committed to continue to work on that issue. On the issue of housing, raised by Singapore, the delegation said that housing was one of the flagship projects of Guyana. It had increased tremendously, and the Government had learned much from what had been done in Singapore.

126. On the issue of forced marriage raised by Slovenia, the delegation affirmed that in Guyana no one could get married before the age of 16 unless his or her parents consented; there had been no such requests that the delegation knew of.

127. With regard to ensuring that persons of African descent were able to participate in and integrate into society, the delegation said that it was very difficult to have more than 30 per cent of the population not involved in the society; however, all of the different groups in the society were represented in Government, Parliament and public bodies, which made Guyanese proud.

128. Regarding the media, action taken by Guyana had been described in the report. It supported self-regulation in the media because rights came with responsibilities.

129. The delegation concluded by thanking the delegations, and underscored that many issues raised had been addressed in the report.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

130. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by and enjoy the support of Guyana:**

130.1. **Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ghana);**

130.2. **Continue harmonizing its legal framework with respect to women and children with CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, respectively (Nicaragua);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

130.3. **Maintain the necessary efforts to promote corporate responsibility, which is linked to the full enjoyment of human rights of the population (Ecuador);**

130.4. **Analyse the possibility of creating a national human rights network to facilitate, among others, the submission of reports to treaty bodies, and establishing a national system to monitor international recommendations (Paraguay);**

130.5. **Consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by OHCHR (Portugal);**

130.6. **Adopt administrative and legislative measures to increase the human, technical and financial resources for the adequate functioning of the Commission on Human Rights, and the three rights commissions, as well as to ensure its independence, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);**

130.7. **Implement a comprehensive strategy to combat the discrimination against women, Amerindian children and also children with disabilities (Trinidad and Tobago);**

130.8. **Continue work to enhance equality and combat discrimination including discrimination against women (Russian Federation);**

130.9. **Clearly define the mandate and the responsibilities of the national mechanism for the advancement of women and allocating the necessary resources to enable it to promote equality and mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring coordination of activities in this field (Morocco);**

130.10. **Intensify technical and vocational training for women and adopt temporary special measures aimed at achieving de facto equal opportunities for men and women in the labour market (Timor-Leste);**

130.11. **Provide the Women and Gender Equality Commission with adequate human, financial and technical resources, so as to consolidate its role in gender promotion and mainstreaming (Romania);**

130.12. **Continue strengthening the presence of women in various institutions (Algeria);**

130.13. **Strengthen the legislative framework and ensure its effective enforcement in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women (Maldives);**

130.14. **Advance in the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination and gender violence, particularly strengthening the coordinated multisectoral implementation and application of the Sexual Offences Act, adopted in Guyana in 2010 (Chile);**

130.15. **Continue working to be able to incorporate the prohibition of discrimination against women in its national legislation (Guatemala);**

130.16. **Strengthen training within the judiciary on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and carry out campaigns on the rights of women and existing resources in cases of gender-based violence or discrimination (Mexico);**

130.17. **Continue promoting the participation of women in social, economic and political spheres contributing to the development of the country (Nicaragua);**

130.18. **Heed the call of CEDAW to promote shared parental and caring responsibilities of women and men (Slovenia);**

130.19. **Strengthen policies for gender equality to ensure participation of women in the political and labour arenas, both public and private, particularly women from ethnic minorities (Colombia);**

130.20. **Continue the actions taken to further advance in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women (Cuba);**

130.21. **Continue its efforts for the proper implementation of the measures adopted for the effective promotion and protection of women's rights, considering the different vulnerability factors to which they may be exposed and the importance of their participation in society (Ecuador);**

130.22. **Take measures to address patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women (Botswana);**

130.23. **Strengthen efforts to ensure that People of African Descent participate and integrate in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of Guyanese society (South Africa);**

130.24. **Implement more appropriate measures to build an inclusive society, in which no segment of the population, notably the Afro-Guyanese who constitute 30 percent of the population, do not suffer discrimination (Ghana);**

130.25. **Strengthen the protection of LGBT individuals (Brazil);**

130.26. **Take measures to ensure that hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity are vigorously investigated and appropriately prosecuted (United States of America);**

130.27. **Continue its effort in eliminating discrimination against LGBT starting with the review of its related legislation (Thailand);**

130.28. **Carry out the national consultations on the death penalty, which it had engaged to hold during the eighth session of the Working Group on the UPR, so as to continue advancing towards the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**

130.29. **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);**

130.30. **Consider the abolition of the death penalty, and declare a moratorium on executions, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

130.31. **Ensure thorough investigations of all allegations of extrajudicial killings and use of excessive force by the police (Italy);**

130.32. **Improve conditions of detention, particularly for persons with disabilities (France);**

130.33. **Redouble efforts to combat all forms of sexual violence against women, fully implementing the Sexual Offences Act (Panama);**

[1] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "We therefore reiterate our past recommendations Nos. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49."

130.34. **Deepen the actions taken against discrimination and violence against women, particularly guaranteeing an effective access to courts and strengthening assistance and accompaniment to the victims (Argentina);**

130.35. **Adopt a national action plan in order to combat gender-specific violence, including domestic violence (Sweden);**

130.36. **Establish preventive measures such as the creation of the national action plan for the prevention of sexual violence as well as public information campaigns on domestic violence so as to facilitate the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act (Switzerland);**

130.37. **Intensify its efforts in combating domestic violence, in particular, provide sufficient resources to ensure effective implementation of its legislation as well as to raise awareness of women's rights (Thailand);**

130.38. **Make the necessary constitutional and legislative amendments to implement its National Domestic Violence Policy with a view to end violence against women and girls (Australia);**

130.39. **Provide law enforcement and judiciary members with training on addressing domestic violence and child abuse cases and build their capacity to record and track complaints ensuring that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and that all perpetrators are prosecuted (Canada);**

130.40. **Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, in order to improve support and access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence (Slovenia);**

130.41. **Fully implement the Sexual Offences Amendment Act 2013 (South Africa);**

130.42. **Provide the necessary human means and resources for the effective implementation of the Sexual Offences Act and the national policy on domestic violence (Spain);**

130.43. **Implement fully the Sexual Offences Act through the national plan for the prevention of sexual violence and the establishment of a unit against sexual offences (Uruguay);**

130.44. **Ensure a coordinated response between police, justice, child protection, and social service officials so that women and children who are victims of violence, including sexual abuse, have access to immediate protection (Canada);**

130.45. **Further strengthen awareness-raising and information programs to promote the rights of the child and consider developing a comprehensive national child protection mechanism and action plan (Philippines);**

130.46. **Ensure more fully the rights of the child, and first and foremost, the realisation of the right to education and combating illegal child labour (Russian Federation);**

130.47. **Intensify awareness-raising campaigns to strengthen the protection of children's rights (Germany);**

130.48. **Intensify efforts to reduce the use of corporal punishment against minors in state-run institutions through awareness-raising campaigns and training in non-violent forms of discipline (Canada);**

130.49. **Take measures to develop a comprehensive action plan to combat trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and girls (Panama);**

130.50. **Take measures to ensure effective implementation of laws and policies that combat trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

130.51. **Continue to address the root causes of human trafficking and provide the relevant training to law enforcement officials and judges to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime do not go unpunished (Trinidad and Tobago);**

130.52. **Develop a comprehensive national strategy with a view to prevent and address all forms of violence against children (Romania);**

130.53. **Strengthen the provisions of legal aid services in all regions and ensure enhanced awareness of key CEDAW provisions by the judiciary (Norway);**

130.54. **Continue legislative and judicial reforms with a view to ensuring the accessibility of legal services in the hinterlands (Russian Federation);**

130.55. **Strengthen the independence of the Police Complaints Authority and provide it with adequate funding and resources (Italy);**

130.56. **Investigate all complaints of human rights violations committed by state security agencies and ensure that cases of violations are brought before the courts (Norway);**

130.57. **Increase the capacity of the Police Complaints Authority to undertake prompt and impartial investigations of police abuse so the PCA can transfer cases to the justice system for prosecution as warranted (United States of America);**

130.58. **Adopt measures that ensure enjoyment of fundamental freedoms in law and practice (Botswana);**

130.59. **Improve access to age-appropriate HIV, sexual and reproductive health services especially among adolescents (Trinidad and Tobago);**

130.60. **Continue consolidating its correct social programs in favour of its people, in the fight against poverty, exclusion and social injustice underscoring the areas of nutrition, health, education and employment, for which it is important that the Community of Nations provide the cooperation and technical assistance that Guyana requires (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

130.61. **Apply the measures envisaged to continue the trend towards poverty reduction in the country (Cuba);**

130.62. **Enhance its poverty eradication efforts by continuously allocating sufficient annual budget dedicated to poverty eradication programmes (Indonesia);**

130.63. **Continue implementing programmes and plans aimed at improving services linked to drinking water and sanitation (Algeria);**

130.64. **Continue to strengthen the construction of drinking water and basic sanitation facilities in order to provide better basic services for its people (China);**

130.65. **Continue to develop sustainable housing schemes with a view to increasing the provision of housing for low and middle income households (Singapore);**

130.66. **Take actions at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age", A/HRC/27/31 (Ireland);**

130.67. **Continue to implement measures to strengthen public health services for all its citizens (Singapore);**

130.68. **Increase access to affordable contraceptive methods throughout the country, include comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula, and provide adequate and effective sexual and reproductive health services, including to adolescents (Slovenia);**

130.69. **Further promote human rights education and awareness-raising programmes in Guyana (Armenia);**

130.70. **Continue to increase the inputs of financial and human resources into education so as to improve educational standards and reduce drop-out rates (China);**

130.71. **Continue its efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010 (Indonesia);**

130.72. **Combat prevailing discrimination against children with disabilities and ensure the availability of appropriate health and equal educational services for children (Maldives);**

130.73. **Take further measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to transportation, facilities and health services and ensure their integration into the general education system (Panama);**

130.74. **Guarantee extended, free and transparent participation of civil society and minorities in the public national debate (Chile);**

130.75. **Guarantee the indigenous people's rights by fully engaging indigenous peoples of the country in decision-making in all the matters that affect them (Estonia).**

131. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Guyana, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

131.1. **Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women by ensuring effective implementation of the existing legislation, by implementing a policy of equal work for equal pay and by developing a comprehensive national strategy to facilitate equal access of girls and women to all levels and fields of education (Italy);**

131.2. **Amend the list of hazardous work to prohibit children under the age of 18 from working in all listed sectors (United States of America);**

131.3. **Reduce the number of crimes to which the death penalty can be imposed (Australia);**

131.4. **Ensure de facto criminalization of child, early and forced marriages and carry out awareness-raising among women about their rights (Slovenia).**

132. **The following recommendations will be examined by Guyana, which will provide responses in due course, but no later than the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council in June/July 2015:**

132.1. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Italy); (Paraguay); (Uruguay);**

132.2. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR with the aim of total abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**

132.3. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland);**

132.4. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**

132.5. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**

132.6. **Abolish the death penalty in law and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Germany); Abolish the death penalty and ratify the second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Portugal);**

132.7. **Ratify OP-CEDAW (Namibia);**

132.8. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Spain); (Uruguay);**

132.9. **Give a high priority to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);**

132.10. **Ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (Uruguay);**

132.11. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark);**

132.12. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

132.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism as soon as possible (Costa Rica);**

132.14. **Consider ratifying OP-CAT (Ghana);**

132.15. **Withdraw the reservations made to articles 21 and 22 of CAT and ratify its Optional Protocol (Portugal);**

132.16. **Ratify the OP-CRC on a communications procedure (Montenegro);**

132.17. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and OP-CEDAW (Sierra Leone);**

132.18. **Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

132.19. **Ratify and implement ILO Convention 169 (Norway);**

132.20. **Align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts (Estonia);**

132.21. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

132.22. **Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (India);**

132.23. **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

132.24. **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Ghana);**

132.25. **Extend an open invitation to the special procedures of the United Nations (Guatemala);**

132.26. **Extend a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures and accept the request for a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (Spain);**

132.27. **Accept the request for a visit made by the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (Portugal);**

132.28. **Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Portugal);**

132.29. **Repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly those which criminalise consensual adult same-sex relations (Ireland);**

132.30. **Decriminalise homosexuality and combat all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons (Italy);**

132.31. **Bring its legislation in line with international standards by removing the relevant sections that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct from the Criminal Law (Offences) Act (Netherlands);**

132.32. **Repeal the laws which criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

132.33. **Abrogate national laws which criminalize or discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Switzerland);**

132.34. **In consultation with civil society, develop and pass legislation that decriminalizes consensual same-sex sexual conduct (United States of America);**

132.35. **Guarantee to LGBTI persons the full enjoyment under equal conditions of their human rights, through the abolishment of the norms that criminalize and stigmatize them, and the investigation and sanction of cases of violence or discrimination motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina);**

132.36. **Amend Article 149 of the Guyana Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and repeal Sections 351 to 353 of the Criminal Law Offences Act, which criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex (Canada);**

[1] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "We therefore reiterate our past recommendations No. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49."

132.47. **Advance in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly abolishing all regulations of the Penal Code that support those discriminations and reinforce legislative and judicial protections against such abuses (Chile);**

132.48. **Abolish discriminatory laws against LGBT persons and also amend its national legislation in order to include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of discrimination (Norway);**

132.49. **Repeal all norms that can be presumed or interpreted as being discriminatory against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);**

132.40. **Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

132.41. **Amend all legislation that discriminates against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as investigate incidents or acts of violence motivated by homophobia or transphobia and bring to justice those responsible for such acts (Uruguay);**

132.42. **Take the legislative and policy measures to prevent and fight against violence and fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Colombia);**

132.43. **Carry out the necessary amendments to its national legislation so that no crime is punished by the death penalty (Panama);**

132.44. **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

132.45. **Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, and commute without delay death sentences into prison terms (Uruguay);**

132.46. **Accompany the informal moratorium on death penalty, maintained since 1997, by a commitment to the adoption of the necessary measures to establish a formal moratorium, with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty (Brazil);**

132.47. **Eliminate the death penalty from its legislation and alternatively, establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Chile);**

132.48. **Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolishment and ensure the death penalty is commuted to prison penalties (Costa Rica);**

132.49. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (France);**

132.50. **Seek the support of the Group of Friends of the Convention against Torture Initiative for technical assistance in the implementation of measures aimed at preventing and investigating reports of torture in the prisons system (Ghana);**

132.51. **Repeal corporal punishment of children (Kuwait);**

132.52. **Eliminate corporal punishment of children both in public and private life (Netherlands);**

132.53 **Prohibit corporal punishment, especially in schools, in accordance with article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

132.54 **Develop a comprehensive national strategy and adopt a national coordinating framework to ban all corporal punishment against children (Germany);**

132.55 **Take all the necessary measures including law reform initiatives to eliminate violence against children in all its forms, including corporal punishment (Namibia);**

132.56 **Put in place an independent organ to investigate complaints of abuses perpetrated by members of the country's security forces (Spain);**

132.57 **Increase age of criminal liability to 18 (Kuwait);**

132.58 **Continue efforts for the prompt adoption of the Law on Juvenile Justice (Nicaragua);**

132.59 **Raise the age of criminal responsibility (Slovenia);**

132.60 **Increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 18 years (Sierra Leone);**

132.61 **Respect and protect the right to freedom of expression online and offline and bring its national legislation fully in line with international standards, including by decriminalizing defamation; and to develop self-regulatory mechanisms of the media (Estonia);**

132.62 **Intensify efforts to improve the quality of education, to deal with the issue of high dropout rates, and continue to increase resources for educational infrastructure (Philippines);**

132.63 **Continue its efforts in addressing the challenges in the promotion of the rights to education, inter alia through addressing high rates of student withdrawal from schools (Armenia);**

132.64 **Adopt a national action plan for the improvement of the situation for indigenous peoples (Sweden).**

133 **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "We therefore reiterate our past recommendations No. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.40".

# Annex

*[English only]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Guyana was headed by Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Sherwyn Naughton, First Secretary, Embassy of Guyana in Brussels.

United Nations A/HRC/29/17

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 April 2015

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**
**Twenty-ninth session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal Periodic Review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## Kuwait

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.15-07670 (E)

*1507670*

Please recycle

# Contents


| | | *Paragraphs* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Introduction | 1–4 | 3 |
| I. | Summary of the proceedings of the review process | 5–156 | 3 |
| | A. Presentation by the State under review | 5–29 | 3 |
| | B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review | 30–156 | 7 |
| II. | Conclusions and/or recommendations | 157–158 | 14 |
| Annex | | | |
| | Composition of the delegation | | 29 |

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Kuwait was held at the 16th meeting on 28 January 2015. The delegation of Kuwait was headed by Hend Subaih Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour/Minister of State for Planning and Development. At its 18th meeting, held on 30 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Kuwait.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Kuwait: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), India and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Kuwait:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation prepared in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Kuwait through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour/Minister of State for Planning and Development stated that, although basic principles of human rights were enshrined in the Constitution and laws issued for its implementation, UPR recommendations had led to progress in that field. Kuwait considered the interactive dialogue to be a process for exchanging views that could reinforce mutual understanding with the Working Group.

6. The Minister highlighted that, in seeking to follow up on its international human rights obligations and commitments, Kuwait had established a standing committee to prepare all national reports on human rights and supervise the follow-up. The second national report had been prepared by all government agencies, in coordination with civil society and non-profit organizations.

7. Since the previous review in 2010, Kuwait had established national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. The National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights was one of them. The Government had drawn up a bill to establish an independent human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and also drafted three bills emanating from the voluntary pledges or UPR recommendations received in 2010. Those bills were related to the rights of the child, the establishment of a Family Court, and juveniles.

8. Kuwait attached great importance to women's rights and their protection. Participation by Kuwaiti women in the labour market had increased during 2010–2013 to 51 per cent in the private sector and 45 per cent in the government sector. The proportion of women in senior posts in both sectors had reached 20 per cent. The principle of equal pay between men and women for work of equal value in the private sector had been established. Employment of women in the judiciary was approved, while it had previously been limited to men only.

9. A new law on public assistance had been promulgated in 2011, ensuring better standards of living for members of society, especially those in low-income groups such as Kuwaiti women married to limited-income non-Kuwaiti men, as well as women over 55 years of age with no income, and married students. Furthermore, Act No. 2/2011 had introduced amendments to the Housing Welfare Act. Housing requests from Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti men after they obtained citizenship were now taken into account, and they were also granted housing loans by the Kuwait Credit Bank.

10. In its Development Plan 2015/2016–2019/2020, Kuwait had included objectives for the empowerment of women by reviewing legislation and suppressing discrimination against them through a joint committee of representatives from civil society institutions.

11. The Constitution considered the protection of children to be a fundamental social principle, through which the integrity of the family was preserved and its ties strengthened (art. 9). The State was obligated to protect children from exploitation and from moral, physical, and spiritual neglect (art. 10).

12. In the light of the above, Kuwait had decided to raise the standard of living of children by issuing the new Public Assistance Act No. 12/2011 and decree No. 23/2013 concerning entitlement to public assistance, and to provide a suitable environment for children to prepare them for pre-public education, through the Private Crèches Act No. 22/2014.

13. Kuwait was a country that attracted foreign workers. Their number was constantly increasing and had exceeded 1.496 million. In total, foreign workers amounted up to more than two-thirds of the population, representing more than 164 different nationalities. Kuwait had made sure during the review of its labour regulations that the new Private Sector Employment Act No. 6/2010 included more rights and legal safeguards for workers.

14. In that context, the Public Manpower Authority had been established under Act No. 109/2013. This authority had the exclusive responsibility of bringing over foreign workers based on employers' requests to facilitate their transition and mitigate the influence of the employers on them. Furthermore, a permanent shelter had been inaugurated to house foreign workers facing labour disputes.

15. Kuwait was determined to provide a decent life for illegal residents, through various legislation and procedures. The Central Agency for Regularization of the Status of Illegal Residents had been established by Amiri Decree No. 467/201. Ministerial Decision No. 409/2011 concerning the provision of facilities and services for illegal residents provided for their access to medical treatment, education, the issuance of official documents, such as birth and death certificates, marriage and divorce certificates, succession certificates, passports, driving licences, ration cards and employment. Act No. 8/2010 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities applied to illegal residents without discrimination or exclusion. Illegal residents were entitled to housing welfare and social services. They also had the right to seek legal redress and enjoy public freedoms.

16. For dissemination of the culture of human rights, a legislative amendment had been made to the law of the Constitutional Court, which had opened the way for citizens to directly address the Court to challenge the constitutionality of laws. In the education sector,

human rights curricula were taught in both the general and higher education segments. Teachers were receiving training in the domain and were regularly updated on human rights issues, and provided with the Human Rights Education Manual.

17. Employees in the judiciary and law enforcement, as well as prison supervisors were trained with international organizations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had also included in its development plan a major project that sought to consolidate the concepts and values of human rights, through specialized training courses in collaboration with local and international agencies.

18. Kuwait remained firmly committed to submitting its periodic reports to treaty bodies. Since the previous UPR in 2010, Kuwait had submitted reports to the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Furthermore, its third periodic report had been submitted to HR Committee in November 2014. In 2015, Kuwait would be submitting its third periodic report to CAT in June, its fifth and sixth periodic reports to CEDAW in October, and its first periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September.

19. Kuwait had welcomed the request by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences to visit the country during January–March. Kuwait had also welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. However, owing to internal commitments related to the country's presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, the Arab Summit, and the African-Arab Summit, the visit had not taken place. The Permanent Mission in Geneva would take the necessary measures to agree with the Special Rapporteur on a date for the visit.

20. Kuwait had established consistent principles for providing humanitarian assistance to peoples of disaster-stricken countries and to poor nations. It had relied on guiding instruments that could assess the real humanitarian needs of those countries, bearing in mind that human rights issues could not be divided. This philosophy was summarized by His Highness the Amir when he said that since gaining its independence, the State of Kuwait had followed a consistent approach in its foreign policy, based essentially on the need to render humanitarian assistance to all needy countries, regardless of their geographic location, religious beliefs or ethnic composition, in keeping with its firm faith in international partnership and the importance of activating global efforts to maintain and preserve the quintessence of life itself, namely the human spirit.

21. Kuwait had spared no effort to ease the humanitarian crisis. For that reasons, His Highness the Amir had accepted the appeal of the Secretary-General to host the third donor conference to assist the Syrian people in Kuwait on 31 March 2015. It should be recalled that Kuwait had not hesitated to accept the requests of the United Nations to host the previous two donor conferences for the relief of the Syrian people, in 2013 and 2014. The international community had succeeded on those occasions in raising a total of 3.9 billion dollars, of which 800 million dollars had been contributed by Kuwait and paid in full to the United Nations relief bodies.

22. Accordingly, as a token of the international community's appreciation for the important humanitarian role of Kuwait, His Highness the Amir was granted the title of "humanitarian leader" by the Secretary-General on 9 September 2014, and Kuwait was henceforth considered to be a "humanitarian hub". In parallel, His Highness the Amir had also been granted awards and certificates of appreciation by many international humanitarian organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

23. The Minister underscored that Kuwait would tirelessly pursue its endeavours to further promote human rights, in accordance with its national plans and objectives and its Arab and Islamic heritage. The Minister then invited members of the delegation to elaborate on some specific issues.

24. The delegation indicated that Kuwait had taken a number of measures to guarantee the rights of women. Article 9 of the Constitution stipulated that the family was the prime entity of society, and article 29 referred to equality between men and women. There was no discrimination on the grounds of race, origin, language or religion. All of those rights were protected by the establishment of the Constitutional Court. Kuwait had also promulgated a number of laws aimed at the protection of women from violence. The Penal Code contained provisions which criminalized violence against women and considered it under aggravating circumstances. The Personal Status Code guaranteed the right of women to request a divorce on the grounds of harm and their right to custody, pension and housing.

25. The Government had submitted to Parliament a bill of law on the establishment of a family court, whereby a Family Court would be established in every governorate in order to resolve conflicts within a family. A fund had been set up under the Ministry of Justice to provide assistance to women and wives or divorced women and children as necessary. A department within the Ministry of Interior provided counselling and assistance in the case of domestic violence. The labour codes required equal pay for equal work. Kuwait had been endeavouring to provide a preponderance of places to women in civil service, military, judiciary and diplomatic services. Kuwait had also been ensuring that the State Development Plan for the coming years would guarantee the rights of women.

26. With regard to the question of illegal residents, the delegation stated that it was not limited to Kuwait. However, unlike other countries, Kuwait provided them with many services which were equivalent to those given to its citizens. "Illegal resident" was the term used in Decree No. 467/2010. Those residents had contravened the Kuwaiti Residence of Aliens Act No. 17 of 1959 by applying for Kuwaiti citizenship while concealing their passports. In order to address the situation, a roadmap had been adopted by the Council of Ministers.

27. Those who applied for regularization of their situation would not be prevented from applying for Kuwaiti citizenship. A full review of the files of some of those illegal residents, who were eligible for Kuwaiti citizenship in line with the Citizenship Law, would be conducted. The roadmap also indicated that their situation would be regularized, passports issued, and free residency in the country for a period of five years granted, in accordance with Act No. 17 of 1959.

28. Over the previous four years, around 6,325 persons had regularized their situation and been issued with passports. The Council of Ministers had issued Decision No. 409/2011, whereby those persons would be provided with services and facilities for decent living conditions. They had been accepted for enrolment in higher education institutions and their children were exempted from presenting the necessary documents for enrolment in schools. The costs were being covered by the Charitable Fund. Children of illegal residents were issued with birth certificates and all other personal status documents. They were provided with ration cards and entitled to a driving licence. There were also other measures, such as social insurance, health insurance and housing benefits.

29. The delegation stated that the Constitution guaranteed the freedom of opinion, expression, the press and peaceful assembly, that included discussions on the social media and internet. Kuwait had eliminated obstacles to freedom of opinion in the publication and

audiovisual media, including prohibition of any prior censorship of the press. The police provided the security of demonstrations, in accordance with article 49 of the Constitution, which guaranteed observance of public order and respect for public morals. That did not go beyond the framework of article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

30. During the interactive dialogue, 113 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

31. Qatar commended the humanitarian role played by Kuwait and noted that the Amir of Kuwait had received the title of "Humanitarian Leader".

32. Sierra Leone noted the comprehensive national Development Plan, its provisions on women's empowerment and the open invitation to the special procedures.

33. Slovakia shared the concern expressed by treaty bodies regarding the status of stateless persons and their lack of rights.

34. Slovenia remained concerned that early marriage was permitted by law and that young girls continued to be forcibly married.

35. Somalia asked about what Kuwait planned to do to support initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of persons with albinism worldwide.

36. South Sudan applauded the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for providing official development assistance to developing countries.

37. Spain commended Kuwait for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)and reforms undertaken with regard to gender equality.

38. The State of Palestine commended the ratification of CRPD and the Arab Charter of Human Rights.

39. The Sudan noted the efforts to promote the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly and appreciated the ratification of CRPD.

40. Swaziland commended the financial contributions made to mitigate the harsh living conditions experienced by African countries.

41. Sweden noted that, in 2013, five executions had been carried out, for the first time since 2007.

42. Switzerland expressed concern about the uncertain situation of over 100,000 stateless persons known as Bidouns.

43. Tajikistan noted the measures taken for development of accessibility to health care and environmental protection.

44. Thailand noted the improvement of women's access to the labour market, but remained concerned about discrimination against them.

45. Timor-Leste appreciated the efforts to regularize the situation of stateless persons and to mainstream children with disabilities within regular classes.

46. Togo appreciated progress in the rights of women, children and older persons and commended the development assistance from Kuwait in Africa.

47. Tunisia encouraged Kuwait to continue to improve the legal framework for the protection of human rights by ratifying international instruments.

48. Turkey commended the ratification of CRPD, the harmonization of national legislation and improvement in conditions for foreign labourers.

49. Ukraine appreciated equality and non-discrimination efforts and encouraged Kuwait to further the advancement of women.

50. The United Arab Emirates encouraged Kuwait to pursue its efforts in the human rights sector.

51. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized progress but remained concerned about lack of gender equality.

52. The United States of America urged Kuwait to amend nationality laws, prosecute violators of the 2013 anti-trafficking law, and strengthen protection of workers.

53. Uruguay encouraged Kuwait to ratify fundamental instruments and to protect the rights of migrant workers.

54. Uzbekistan commended Kuwait for measures taken for the protection and promotion of human rights.

55. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted progress in the implementation of UPR recommendations.

56. Yemen commended Kuwait for the manner in which the national report was prepared, in consultation with civil society and other actors.

57. Zimbabwe welcomed efforts to implement recommendations accepted during the first cycle review.

58. Afghanistan welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities.

59. Albania noted legal and institutional reforms and commended Kuwait on its efforts to raise awareness on human rights.

60. Algeria noted legal measures taken to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrant workers.

61. Angola noted measures taken to implement the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review.

62. Argentina valued efforts to comply with UPR recommendations, notwithstanding remaining challenges.

63. The delegation of Kuwait indicated that Kuwait had been exerting efforts to find alternatives for the sponsorship system. Over the previous few years, a number of amendments and modifications had been introduced, and the scope of powers granted to employers had been reduced.

64. As for travel documents and registration, a ministerial decree prohibited retention of passports of the workers by the employer. Additionally, under the framework for the implementation of Law 91 of 2013 on human trafficking, a shelter for migrant workers had been initiated with capacity for 700 workers.

65. Legislative Decree No. 40/1992 recognized the rights of domestic workers and established a department for domestic workers to implement complementary ministerial decisions. There was also a proposed law on domestic workers. Responding to a question from Belgium about improving the working conditions of migrant workers, the delegation

emphasized that Kuwait tried to create optimal working conditions for all workers regardless of their nationality.

66. The delegation stated that Kuwait had promulgated the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Act No. 91 of 2013 and explained some of its provisions. Article 1 contained a definition of transnational organized crime and human trafficking. Article 3 prescribed a penalty of up to 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of between 10,000 and 20,000 dinars. Article 12 allowed the prosecutor general to send victims to institutions for medical and psychological assistance. The Penal Code and other laws also had many provisions on human trafficking that applied to both foreigners and nationals.

67. With regard to the conditions of detention, the delegation indicated that 53 detention centres had been modernized in accordance with international standards and provided for the psychological and health requirements of the prisoners, as affirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Concerning female detainees, as women could now join the military, female military officers had been deployed to certain detention centres in order to guarantee the privacy and special needs of female detainees. Pregnant prisoners were provided with special care, starting from the sixth month of pregnancy.

68. The relations between Kuwait and human rights organizations were positive and transparent. Since 2010, 39 visits to detention centres by human rights organizations had been recorded, in addition to a strengthening relationship with ICRC, in designing modern detention centres.

69. On Kuwaiti citizenship, the delegation indicated that the Kuwaiti citizenship law (no. 15/1959) provided children of Kuwaiti women with Kuwaiti citizenship in certain cases for humanitarian reasons (art. 3). Article 5 also stipulated that citizenship would be passed on to the children of Kuwaiti women when those children remained residents of Kuwait at the age of majority, especially if their foreign father was a prisoner of war, or if the father had obtained a final divorce, or was deceased.

70. Armenia welcomed the efforts of Kuwait to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of CRPD.

71. Australia expressed concern at growing restrictions on public gatherings and at discrimination against Bidouns.

72. Austria made recommendations.

73. Azerbaijan welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the cooperation of Kuwait with the United Nations human rights bodies.

74. Bahrain commended Kuwait on its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

75. Bangladesh commended Kuwait on the provision of free education and health care and on the legal protection for foreign workers.

76. Belarus noted the active cooperation of Kuwait with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the progress made in women's representation in political and social spheres.

77. Belgium expressed concern about the situation of migrant workers and Bidouns and regretted the resumption of executions.

78. Benin noted the progress in the protection of the rights of women and children and the social integration of migrant workers.

79. Bhutan noted measures to protect the rights of women and children and the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Authority.

80. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed ratification of CRPD and the strengthened legal and institutional framework.

81. Botswana commended legislation on the protection of the rights of women and children and noted remaining challenges.

82. Brazil encouraged Kuwait to follow up on the upcoming visit of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery and to adopt policy to combat domestic violence.

83. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the enactment of measures to enhance the rights of people with disabilities.

84. Bulgaria welcomed the commitment of Kuwait to implement its voluntary pledges and recommendations accepted during the first review.

85. Canada welcomed the progress of Kuwait in advancing human rights protections domestically and internationally, including through its humanitarian leadership.

86. Chad commended the adoption of a number of laws and regulations in accordance with voluntary commitments and recommendations from the previous UPR.

87. Chile highlighted as an important step the draft law to establish a human rights institution.

88. China appreciated efforts in combating domestic violence and the strengthened protection of migrant and domestic workers.

89. Comoros commended progress made to facilitate access to equality between men and women on the labour market.

90. The Congo welcomed legislative measures regarding persons with disabilities, human trafficking, migrants and child rights.

91. Costa Rica hoped that Kuwait would soon establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

92. Cote d'Ivoire encouraged Kuwait to strengthen measures on women's role in society and prevent domestic violence.

93. Croatia asked what further steps Kuwait had taken to better the human rights of the Bidoons.

94. Cuba recognized important achievements in the areas of health, education and the protection of elderly persons.

95. Cyprus commended the adoption of the Act preventing human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

96. The Czech Republic appreciated the informative presentation by Kuwait and its response to some of its advance questions.

97. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the achievements made for the protection and promotion of human rights and encouraged Kuwait to continue with the positive efforts.

98. Denmark stressed the importance of civil society actors in the UPR process and the prohibition of reprisals against them.

99. Djibouti applauded the efforts of Kuwait aimed at disseminating and raising awareness about human rights.

100. Egypt welcomed the adoption of numerous laws and the establishment of national human rights mechanisms.

101. Estonia welcomed positive developments in the field of women's rights despite the existence of discrimination against women.

102. Ethiopia welcomed the measures taken to protect the rights of expatriate and domestic workers.

103. France welcomed efforts made by Kuwait since its first review.

104. Gabon appreciated legislative measures taken to promote women's rights and to protect the environment and natural resources.

105. Germany thanked Kuwait for its national report.

106. Ghana applauded Kuwait for ratifying CRPD and issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures.

107. The delegation of Kuwait indicated that Kuwait had been envisaging ratification of instruments that it was not yet party to, as well as withdrawal of some of the reservations that it had entered after introducing legislative amendments.

108. Kuwait had acceded to CRPD as a response to the previous UPR recommendations and its voluntary commitment. Before accession, Kuwait had adopted Law No. 8/2010 covering the rights of persons with disabilities, as contained in CRPD.

109. National legislation contained the fundamental rights of the child. The law on the establishment of a family court would establish Family Reconciliation Centres which would welcome families and children. Kuwait had also drawn up a draft law on children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There was a national mechanism to protect the rights of the child. A draft law on juveniles was aimed at reinforcing the concept of their rehabilitation and establishing centres to provide psychosocial advice to them.

110. The delegation stated that human rights were taught at primary and intermediate levels. In terms of secondary education, there was a course on the Constitution and human rights. At university level, human rights and international law were included in the programme. There were special training sessions for teachers. Kuwait also trained those who worked in government bodies, such as prosecutors and judges. Kuwait emphasized that the public discourse contained the concept of human rights and cultural diversity.

111. The delegation reiterated that, according to the Constitution (art. 35), freedom of belief was absolute. The State protected the freedom to practise religion in accordance with established customs, provided that it did not conflict with public policy or morals. Furthermore, the State did not impose its religious belief on anyone, and non-Muslims were not obliged to receive an Islamic education. That was in line with article 18, paragraph 1, of ICCPR.

112. Greece appreciated developments for women's empowerment in the labour market, public administration and education.

113. Honduras commended Kuwait for normative and legislative efforts to improve the protection of human rights.

114. Hungary welcomed the fact that more professions were accessible to women and that non-governmental organizations could be founded and could act without impediment.

115. Iceland urged Kuwait to ensure that equal rights for women applied in all areas and that migrant workers labour standards applied to domestic workers.

116. India encouraged adoption of a comprehensive plan to further promote gender equality and commended the humanitarian aid by Kuwait.

117. Indonesia noted the formulation by Kuwait of its Development Plan and measures taken to protect the rights of migrants.

118. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the establishment of the National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights.

119. Iraq welcomed the efforts of Kuwait to promote and protect human rights internationally and nationally.

120. Ireland commended Kuwait for its commitment to humanitarian development assistance.

121. Italy was concerned by the application of the law on blasphemy and acknowledged some measures taken to address the situation of Bidoons.

122. Jordan appreciated ongoing positive developments to promote and protect human rights as mentioned in Kuwait's national report.

123. Kazakhstan commended the achievements of Kuwait in the health-care and social security sectors and its commitment to humanitarian action.

124. Kyrgyzstan noted the ratification of CRPD and national legislation adopted on the rights of persons with disabilities.

125. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended efforts to address trafficking in persons and domestic violence.

126. Latvia requested elaboration on further steps to prevent domestic violence against women, children and the elderly.

127. Lebanon lauded exemplary leadership by the Amir of Kuwait as recognized by the Secretary-General, and commended humanitarian efforts.

128. Lesotho commended achievements in the socio-economic, civil and political spheres, and expressed its appreciation of the ratification of core human rights treaties.

129. Libya appreciated cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including UPR, particularly as regards implementation of previous recommendations.

130. Malaysia welcomed legislative and institutional measures, including those ensuring protection of children, and improvements in health-care services.

131. Maldives recognized and encouraged advances in gender equality, and appreciated awareness activities by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

132. Mauritania appreciated cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, including UPR, and efforts made to promote human rights.

133. Mexico hoped that the open invitation to special procedures extended by Kuwait during the previous review would result in the visit of a mandate-holder.

134. Montenegro enquired after measures to raise awareness of children's rights and activities to combat domestic violence.

135. Morocco commended the commitment to human rights, citing associated legislative and institutional developments in accordance with the Paris Principles.

136. Myanmar welcomed implementation of previous pledges and recommendations and praised awareness activities through publications and training courses.

137. Namibia recognized encouraging reforms and developments regarding the rights of women and noted associated legislative provisions.

138. Nepal applauded achievements realizing the rights of women and persons with disabilities and also noted contributions towards humanitarian activities.

139. The Netherlands welcomed steps involving women in the judiciary but remained concerned at the rates of participation in political debate and decision-making.

140. Nicaragua highlighted new legislation and institutions and hoped that Kuwait would continue working towards the protection of children.

141. The Niger commended regulatory developments relating to persons with disabilities and human trafficking and enhanced assistance for vulnerable persons.

142. Norway was concerned over law discriminating against women, the situation of domestic workers, and arrests of social media users.

143. Oman referenced achievements in human rights and lauded the Amir of Kuwait for international humanitarian assistance rendered.

144. Pakistan commended the passage of laws and administrative reforms to promote and protect human rights.

145. The Philippines welcomed the legislative measures to protect migrant workers and enquired about the nationality laws of Kuwait.

146. Poland noted the measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women.

147. Portugal welcomed the standing invitation to the special procedures and the bill of law on establishing a human rights office.

148. Singapore recognized efforts to promote gender equality and the support of Kuwait for United Nations humanitarian actions.

149. The Republic of Korea noted the progress made with regard to women, children and persons with disabilities.

150. The Russian Federation noted the implementation of its treaty obligations and the adoption of the Law on persons with disabilities.

151. Rwanda noted measures to combat corruption and trafficking and to protect employees, and the ratification of CRPD.

152. Saudi Arabia commended the efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

153. Senegal noted the work of Kuwait to implement the recommendations from the first UPR in 2010.

154. Serbia encouraged Kuwait to continue to promote economic, social and cultural rights and to combat discrimination.

155. Sri Lanka noted initiatives to eliminate discrimination against women by adopting the Private Sector Labour Law in 2010.

156. In conclusion, the Minister reiterated that the importance of human rights was not only at the national level but also at the international level. The UPR mechanism had provided Kuwait with an opportunity to strengthen its commitment to its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the interactive

dialogue with the members of the Human Rights Council gave Kuwait an opportunity to benefit from their experiences. The Minister wholeheartedly thanked the members of the Working Group and all States that had participated in the review.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations[*]

157. **The following recommendations will be examined by Kuwait, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, to be held from 15 June to 3 July 2015:**

157.1 **Take the necessary steps to ratify or accede to the outstanding human rights instruments (Lesotho);**

157.2 **Accede to or ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP 1 and ICCPR-OP 2) (Slovenia);**

157.3 **Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying ICCPR-OP 2 (Australia);**

157.4 **Ratify ICCPR-OP 2 (Portugal) (Spain);**

157.5 **Consider ratification of ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**

157.6 **Withdraw reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Spain);**

157.7 **Take further legislative and other steps to enhance women's rights and consider accession by Kuwait to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP-CEDAW) as well as the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW (Greece);**

157.8 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT), ICCPR and CEDAW as well as its general reservations to CRC and ratify the Rome Statute and the Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT) and OP-CEDAW (Austria);**

157.9 **Ratify accede to OP-CAT (Costa Rica) (Denmark) (Honduras);**

157.10 **Consider the ratification of the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including OP-CAT and ICCPR-OP 1 and ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Brazil);**

157.11 **Withdraw reservations to CAT and ratify OP-CAT (Estonia);**

157.12 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Ghana) (Honduras) (Sierra Leone);**

157.13 **Consider ratifying ICRMW (Niger) (Timor-Leste);**

157.14 **Work towards the ratification of -(ICRMW (Benin);**

157.15 **Continue strengthening the effort to take measures to protect the rights of migrants, including consider ratifying ICRMW (Indonesia);**

[*] The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

157.16. **Consider ratifying ICRMW and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers (Philippines);**

157.17. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, OP-CAT and the ILO Conventions that it has not ratified to date (Chile);**

157.18. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Ghana) (Honduras) (Latvia) (Montenegro) (Poland) (Portugal) (Sweden) (Timor-Leste);**

157.19. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);**

157.20. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ensure its implementation (Botswana);**

157.21. **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Bulgaria);**

157.22. **Ratify and fully align Kuwaiti national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Croatia);**

157.23. **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia) (Hungary);**

157.24. **Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Germany);**

157.25. **Ratify the Rome Statute and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

157.26. **Ratify ICPPED (Sierra Leone);**

157.27. **Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers and adapt its national legislation accordingly (Switzerland);**

157.28. **On migrant workers: ratify ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and abandon the current Kafala system (Iceland);**

157.29. **Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Kazakhstan);**

157.30. **Ratify the Conventions on refugees and stateless persons (Honduras);**

157.31. **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Slovakia);**

157.32. **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, with a view to finding a permanent solution to the legal status of Bidouns in Kuwait (Australia);**

157.33. **Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and uphold the rights of the Bidouns to nationality and access to social services (Canada);**

157.34. **Make a credible commitment to improving the status of Bidouns by ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Germany);**

157.35. **Complete the planned elaboration of a law on human rights (Belarus);**

157.36. **Continue implementing the national laws in accordance with the universally agreed human rights norms and principles (Lesotho);**

157.37. **Continue efforts to strengthen the legal framework for the promotion of human rights (Morocco);**

157.38. **Continue awareness-raising in the area of human rights (Lebanon);**

157.39. **Continue to disseminate the culture of human rights (Egypt);**

157.40. **Continue the constructive steps taken in the promotion and protection of human rights (Saudi Arabia);**

157.41. **Continue the reforms to improve policies and programmes towards promotion and protection of human rights (Lesotho);**

157.42. **Organize regional and local conferences to exchange experiences and opinions on strengthening and promoting human rights (Mauritania);**

157.43. **Continue strengthening training for public sector employees in the field of human rights (Qatar);**

157.44. **Include human rights courses in the in-service training of public and law enforcement officials (Turkey);**

157.45. **Conduct training programmes on human rights to increase awareness among public servants, especially the staff of law enforcement bodies and the judiciary (Uzbekistan);**

157.46. **Expand human rights trainings to law enforcement organs and personnel of public sector (Ethiopia);**

157.47. **Intensify programmes and activities related to human rights training to police and military personnel (Bhutan);**

157.48. **Intensify its national efforts to strengthen human rights and training (Bahrain);**

157.49. **Continue efforts and activities to raise awareness of human rights in the country (Bangladesh);**

157.50. **Continue to carry out human rights campaigns to improve the human rights awareness of the general public (China);**

157.51. **Continue positive steps for the promotion and protection of human rights (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

157.52. **Strengthen training on human rights for non-governmental organizations (Morocco);**

157.53. **Enhance the skills of people in charge of teaching human rights in curricula (Sudan);**

157.54. **Develop human rights indicators as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

157.55. **Continue efforts to promote human rights in the world (Jordan);**

157.56. **Establish the national human rights institution (Rwanda);**

157.57. **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

157.58. **Establish without delay an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);**

157.59. **Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**

157.60. **Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland);**

157.61. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles which complements the role of civil society organizations (Hungary);**

157.62. **Continue the ongoing procedures aimed at creating a national commission of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles (Togo);**

157.63. **Expedite the process to establish the national human rights institution (Zimbabwe);**

157.64. **Speed up the process of establishment of the Human Rights Office in compliance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan);**

157.65. **Step up the process of the creation of a national human rights institution (Benin);**

157.66. **Take all necessary measures to complete the process of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Greece);**

157.67. **Ensure that its new human rights institution is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (India);**

157.68. **Expedite the deliberation, and follow by enactment, of the law on the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

157.69. **Give continuity to the strengthening of the national human rights institutions and related mechanisms (Nepal);**

157.70. **Complete swiftly all necessary procedures so the national office of human rights begins its work (Russian Federation);**

157.71. **Consider the formulation of a comprehensive national human rights plan of action (Indonesia);**

157.72. **Promote further comprehensive protection of the rights of children (Tajikistan);**

157.73. **Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

157.74. **Continue cooperation with international mechanisms to promote and protect human rights (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

157.75. **Continue cooperation with international mechanisms concerning human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

157.76. **Continue cooperating with the international mechanisms in order to promote and protect human rights (Cuba);**

157.77. **Continue cooperating with the international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nicaragua);**

157.78. **Continue to pursue its outstanding and noble activities within the Human Rights Council (Somalia);**

157.79. **Continue to submit reports to treaty bodies pursuant to conventions which the country has ratified (Morocco);**

157.80. **Step up cooperation with treaty bodies (Niger);**

157.81. **Address the concerns expressed by two treaty bodies relating to minority rights and also labour rights, made by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**

157.82. **Step up cooperation with the United Nations special procedures by responding positively to pending visit requests (Latvia);**

157.83. **Schedule visits for the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression in line with their requests and Kuwait's 2010 standing invitation (United States of America);**

157.84. **Continue providing support for the work of international humanitarian organizations, including OHCHR (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

157.85. **Continue to strengthen the relations with OHCHR (Algeria);**

157.86. **Work towards supporting the existing cooperation between OHCHR and Kuwait (Libya);**

157.87. **Engage civil society in the implementation process of the accepted UPR recommendations (Poland);**

157.88. **Enhance the cooperation with civil society (Austria);**

157.89. **Take additional legislative and other measures to address gender inequality and racial discrimination (Botswana);**

157.90. **Adopt a general law that sanctions discrimination for any reason, in particular against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons (Chile);**

157.91. **Continue implementing the policy in the area of the improvement of the rights and opportunities of women (Belarus);**

157.92. **Effectively implement the State's Development Plan for enhancement of the capacities of women through reviewing and updating of the legislation in order to eliminate forms of discrimination against women (Myanmar);**

157.93. **Continue its efforts to guarantee the rights of women (Italy);**

157.94. **Continue efforts in further promotion of women's rights (Kazakhstan);**

157.95. **Continue strengthening protective measures and legal rights for women (Norway);**

157.96. **Continue to safeguard the principle of equality between men and women in financial, educational, healthcare and housing sectors by elaborating comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Serbia);**

157.97. **Promote legislation in the area of gender equality (Chile);**

157.98. **Continue to review its legislation and implement practical measures, such as those contained in Kuwait's next Development plan, to eliminate discrimination against women, and to protect and empower Kuwaiti women (Singapore);**

157.99. **Adopt a comprehensive national gender equality action plan (Costa Rica);**

157.100. **Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (Portugal);**

157.101. **Consider adoption of the comprehensive national plan of action to achieve gender equality (Rwanda);**

157.102. **Support social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);**

157.103. **Continue efforts aiming at enforcing and protecting women's rights, and support social empowerment for them (Qatar);**

157.104. **Conduct further work to ensure equality of men and women (Russian Federation);**

157.105. **Continue to work towards closing the gender gaps and ensure gender parity in education (Sierra Leone);**

157.106. **Continue strengthening its policies and programmes for enhancing women's empowerment and equality (Bangladesh);**

157.107. **Ensure gender equality in all aspects of family-related matters and raise the minimum age of marriage (Italy);**

157.108. **Consider increasing the minimum age of marriage, especially for girls (Latvia);**

157.109. **Abolish the practice of early and forced marriage for girls (Slovenia);**

157.110. **Intensify its effort in ensuring gender equality, in particular, by reviewing its legal provisions in the area of civil and family law (Thailand);**

157.111. **Adopt comprehensive legislation on gender equality and include the ground of "sex" among grounds of non-discrimination, in article 29 of the Constitution, in order to guarantee women better protection against discrimination (Albania);**

157.112. **Lift discriminatory provisions against women in its domestic law, particularly in the Civil and Penal Code and in the Education Act (Poland);**

157.113. **Amend legislation that discriminates against women, such as the Nationality Law, to ensure equality between men and women and non-discrimination in enjoyment of the human rights of girls and women (Canada);**

157.114. **Modify the law relating to the nationality in a way to recognize the right of Kuwaiti women to transmit their nationality to their spouses and children (Togo);**

157.115. **Eliminate discrimination against women, including in the Nationality Act, so as to enable Kuwaiti women to pass on their nationality to their children (Austria);**

157.116. **Remove all gender-discriminatory provisions from the Nationality Law of 1959 and adopt comprehensive plans of action to achieve gender equality and to fight violence against women (Czech Republic);**

157.117. **Strengthen its efforts in order to end discrimination against women, especially by revising the Personal Status Law and granting women the right to confer their nationality (Germany);**

157.118. **Amend the nationality law to allow women equal rights to men in passing their nationality to their children (Norway);**

157.119. **Review the Nationality Act to ensure equality between women and men with regard to the acquisition, change and retention of nationality (Poland);**

157.120. **Implement the principle of non-discrimination guaranteed by the Constitution, and guarantee the rights of Bidouns to their nationality (France);**

157.121. **Abolish the death penalty (Slovenia);**

157.122. **Adopt the necessary measures to establish a moratorium on executions of the death penalty (Spain);**

157.123. **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Rwanda);**

157.124. **Introduce a de facto moratorium on capital executions (Italy);**

157.125. **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Uruguay);**

157.126. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Togo);**

157.127. **Re-establish the moratorium on executions (Belgium);**

157.128. **Reinstate a moratorium on executions with a view to the definitive abolition of the death penalty (France);**

157.129. **Reinstate a de facto moratorium of the death penalty, with a view to abolish the punishment (Sweden);**

157.130. **Reinstate the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Greece);**

157.131. **Establish the official moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

157.132. **Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Bulgaria);**

157.133. **Introduce an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Namibia);**

157.134. **Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

157.135. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty and advance towards the total abolition of this practice (Chile);**

157.136. **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with the clear objective of its complete abolition (Germany);**

157.137. **Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its future abolition (Switzerland);**

157.138. **Consider returning to a de facto moratorium on all death sentences (Ukraine);**

157.139. **Adopt specific legislation criminalizing acts of domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape, investigate the incidents and ensure adequate remedies for victims (Slovenia);**

157.140. **Amend internal legislation so as to prohibit domestic violence and sexual harassment against women and children and ensure that women have equality before the law (Croatia);**

157.141. **Strengthen the combat against violence against women, ensuring care for victims and their access to justice (France);**

157.142. **On gender-based violence: establish accessible reporting mechanisms and strengthen investigation and enforcement capacity (Iceland);**

157.143. **Promote specific legislation introducing acts of domestic violence as specific crimes (Chile);**

157.144. **Adopt measures to combat domestic violence (Maldives);**

157.145. **Conduct awareness and education campaigns on gender-based violence and create accessible complaints mechanisms for reporting sexual and domestic violence (Canada);**

157.146. **Prohibit corporal punishment of children at home and other alternative care settings, as it had committed to do in the UPR (Albania);**

157.147. **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Slovenia);**

157.148. **Approve the new Law on Childhood and include the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (Uruguay);**

157.149. **Eliminate corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure in the home and take measures to establish a complaints and investigation procedure for acts of violence against children (Mexico);**

157.150. **Amend its legislation to provide special protection for children against violence, enabling them to file complaints independent of their guardians, and to provide a hotline and shelter for children who incur domestic violence (Ireland);**

157.151. **Continue exerting more efforts to develop law combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (South Sudan);**

157.152. **Ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of human trafficking, and ensure necessary assistance and protection services to victims (Turkey);**

157.153. **Establish a centralized mechanism to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Djibouti);**

157.154. **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

157.155. **Continue its support for the United Nations efforts to combat human trafficking (Iraq);**

157.156. **Continue to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants (Russian Federation);**

157.157. **Share their experiences in the judicial reforms with other States (Sudan);**

157.158. **Continue efforts to develop legal skills through training of judges (Lebanon);**

157.159. **Continue judiciary and legislative reforms (Senegal);**

157.160. **Continue efforts towards the consolidation of the rule of law and its mechanisms (Nicaragua);**

157.161. **Promote efforts to consolidate the rule of law and its mechanisms (Cuba);**

157.162. **Promote efforts to consolidate the rule of law (Côte d'Ivoire);**

157.163. **Continue promoting the efforts in order to consolidate the rule of law and its mechanisms (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

157.164. **Create a system of juvenile justice in line with international standards, and in this context raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (which is now 7 years) (Poland);**

157.165. **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 18 years (Sierra Leone);**

157.166. **Proceed to adopt a national work plan for children's rights in the juvenile justice system (Serbia);**

157.167. **Continue its measures in ensuring the promotion and protection of family and family values from social, health and security threats (Malaysia);**

157.168. **Continue to engage in the full implementation of judicial decisions concerning the family, and exerting efforts to resolve family-related disputes (Pakistan);**

157.169. **Adopt the necessary measures to eliminate in the legislation and in practice the crimes motivated by the sexual orientation of persons (Uruguay);**

157.170. **Prepare and adopt legal and administrative measures with a view to investigating and prosecuting acts of discrimination, stigmatization and violence against LGBTI persons (Argentina);**

157.171. **On lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT): stop arresting individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or appearance and repeal legislative measures that criminalize consensual homosexual conduct (Iceland);**

157.172. **Guarantee personal autonomy and individual rights, as enshrined in the Constitution, by a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as by allowing a medical gender change to be reflected in a person's identity documents (Netherlands);**

157.173. **Legislate to guarantee the freedoms of expression, of assembly and of opinion (Australia);**

157.174. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression and allow the use of social media without undue restrictions and limitations (Italy);**

157.175. **Fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression online/offline by revising relevant laws, including by repealing arrest, trial and imprisonment of persons exercising their freedom of opinion through media and Internet (Estonia);**

157.176. **Revise the compliance of relevant existing laws, in particular articles 25 and 111 of the Penal Code, with international standards of freedom of expression and protect human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers against persecution and harassment (Czech Republic);**

157.177. **Ensure that media and internet laws fully comply with Kuwait's obligations to protect freedom of expression under international agreements (United States of America);**

157.178. **Enact as a matter of priority a new media law guaranteeing freedom of expression, particularly social media, so people can express views without fear of retribution and with defamation covered under the civil rather than criminal code (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

157.179. **Review existing laws including the Law on Press and Publication to ensure freedom of expression in accordance with international standards (Austria);**

157.180. **Protect and respect the right to freedom of expression and introduce legislation and institutions to ensure the independence of the media, prevent censorship and promote transparency in public affairs (Norway);**

157.181. **Ensure the realization of freedom of the press and the media, in line with ICCPR standards (Mexico);**

157.182. **Guarantee in law and in practice, without any abusive restrictions, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedoms of opinion and expression, on the internet and in the traditional media, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Kuwait (France);**

157.183. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of journalists, activists, human rights defenders and those who take part in demonstrations (Uruguay);**

157.184. **Intensify measures to enhance the participation of women in public life (Austria);**

157.185. **Continue strengthening the increasing participation of women in public life (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

157.186. **Promote the participation of women in public affairs and increase their representation in the elected councils (Algeria);**

157.187. **Further encourage and facilitate the representation of women in parliament, in the judiciary and in diplomatic missions abroad (Hungary);**

157.188. **Implement comprehensive national policies and strategic plans to improve equal employment opportunities (Oman);**

157.189. **Pursue initiatives to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights in order to promote sustainable development (Armenia);**

157.190. **Continue to support initiatives promoting economic rights (Zimbabwe);**

157.191. **Pursue initiatives to improve the quality of life by diversifying of the economy (Armenia);**

157.192. **Continue initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life through diversification of the economy (Kyrgyzstan);**

157.193. **Continue initiatives aimed at strengthening economic, social and cultural rights, contributing to sustainable development and transition to more developed economy (Kyrgyzstan);**

157.194. **Consider taking additional steps to promote economic development and a higher standard of living (Sri Lanka);**

157.195. **Continue strengthening social programmes to realize the interest of the Kuwaiti people (Egypt);**

157.196. **Continue to adopt necessary measures to strengthen social and cultural rights (Jordan);**

157.197. **Continue ensuring a high level of social welfare, health and education services for Kuwait's population (Kazakhstan);**

157.198. **Continue the provision of high-quality health-care services to its population (Brunei Darussalam);**

157.199. **Continue its efforts in improving its health-care system especially access for maternal, paediatric and family health services (Malaysia);**

157.200. **Strengthen laws in the area of the right to education (State of Palestine);**

157.201. **Take steps for free, compulsory and inclusive, quality education for all children (Maldives);**

157.202. **Provide equal access to education for all children regardless of their social and legal status (Thailand);**

157.203. **Reduce the gaps between the genders to ensure gender equality in the area of education (Angola);**

157.204. **Continue efforts to eradicate literacy rates (United Arab Emirates);**

157.205. **Consider the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on the protection of the rights of the child, in line with CRC (Brazil);**

157.206. **Carry on supporting the rights of the child (Oman);**

157.207. **Continue to apply measures to guarantee the implementation of CRPD (Angola);**

157.208. **Building on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, continue its efforts in order to improve their standard of living (Cyprus);**

157.209. **Strengthen institutions dealing with the rights of persons with disabilities (Lebanon);**

157.210. **Ensure more fully the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the rights of women and of children (Russian Federation);**

157.211. **Promote the rights of persons with disabilities on the ground, despite the difficulties (Lao People's Democratic Republic));**

157.212. **Continue the implementation of the national strategy on the protection and implementation of living standards of persons with disabilities (Tajikistan);**

157.213. **Continue to take measures allowing persons with disabilities to be fully integrated into economic, political, social and cultural life (United Arab Emirates);**

157.214. **Improve access to public facilities for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

157.215. **Intensify its efforts to support the rights of persons with disabilities to social integration and self-reliance (Brunei Darussalam);**

157.216. **Continue its efforts to provide educational facilities for people with special needs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

157.217. **Introduce further measures to strengthen the employment opportunities and self-reliance options for persons with disabilities (Ethiopia);**

157.218. **Share other countries' experiences and achievements in the field of managing institutions that provide education for people with special needs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

157.219. **Share their best practices in the field of education of children with disabilities (Bhutan);**

157.220. **Consider the adoption of a national strategy to move forward in the promotion and protection of the rights of the elderly (Uzbekistan);**

157.221. **Continue to further regulate the work of domestic workers and to improve the situation of refugees and asylum seekers (Senegal);**

157.222. **Continue to protect and promote the economic and social rights of minorities, in particular, migrant populations (Senegal);**

157.223. **Protect migrant workers in their rights, improve their living and working conditions (China);**

157.224. **Continue efforts in addressing the welfare of expatriate workers (Bangladesh);**

157.225. **Reinforce efforts aimed at improving the working and living conditions of migrant workers (Ukraine);**

157.226. **Ensure respect for the rights of migrant workers, improving their working conditions and prosecuting the perpetrators of violence against them (France);**

157.227. **Continue its efforts in safeguarding and protecting the rights of migrant workers (Myanmar);**

157.228. **Protect migrant workers from exploitation by ensuring that applicable laws and practices conform to international labour standards set by ILO (Canada);**

157.229. **Establish a legal system to protect the rights of migrant workers, consistent with international standards in this area and in particular as regards to working time and access to services and legal means to ensure the respect for contracts (Belgium);**

157.230. **Adopt specific labour legislation on the rights of foreign domestic workers in order to guarantee them the same conditions as other workers covered by the 2010 Labour Law (Albania);**

157.231. **Take additional measures to improve the situation of migrant domestic workers by extending the application of the Private Sector Labour Law to include domestic workers (Germany);**

157.232. **Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including women domestic workers, and protection of their interests through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);**

157.233. **Adopt specific labour legislation to protect the rights of domestic workers, including mechanisms for complaints and sanctions for law violations (Norway);**

157.234. **Adopt legislation for the protection of domestic workers to guarantee their rights in accordance with international standards and prosecute violence against domestic workers (Austria);**

157.235. **Introduce comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers and ensure its effective implementation (Italy);**

157.236. **Take measures to regularize the so-called "illegal residents" to ensure that all their rights are respected in accordance with international standards (Mexico);**

157.237. **Consider effective implementation of the Private Sector Labour Act, with a view to addressing problems faced by migrant labour and also address the negative aspects of the sponsorship system (India);**

157.238. **Abandon the Kafala sponsorship system (Italy);**

157.239. **Take appropriate measures to protect the human rights of foreign migrant workers in linkage with the efforts to modify the Kafala system (Republic of Korea);**

157.240. **Take further measures for ensuring appropriate protection of the human rights of the Bidoun population (Ukraine);**

157.241. **Strengthen actions to ensure that the rights of stateless individuals (Bidoun), domestic migrant workers and foreign female workers are protected and stateless children have access to education and health care (Netherlands);**

157.242. **Provide full citizenship and rights for the Bidoun population (Norway);**

157.243. **Establish a process for handling requests for nationality by Bidouns in accordance with international standards (Belgium);**

157.244. **Enhance efforts to facilitate the regularization of Bidouns, so that they can fully enjoy their rights (Italy);**

157.245. **Respect the universally recognized right to nationality set forth in the the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stop revoking citizenships, while reinstating citizenships that have already been revoked (United States of America);**

157.246. **Take proper action to improve the situation of stateless persons, including by recognizing their civil and political rights (Slovakia);**

157.247. **Ensure the issuance of legal documents for stateless persons while working on a systemic resolution of statelessness in the country in accordance with international standards (Czech Republic);**

157.248. **Take measures to regularize the situation of stateless residents in Kuwait, as well as measures for their integration in society that guarantee their economic, social and cultural rights (Spain);**

157.249. **Implement the strategic plan to resolve the issue of stateless individuals in Kuwait, through a transparent system in which individuals whose nationality and status is unresolved can either attain Kuwaiti nationality rightfully or otherwise regularize their situation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

157.250. **Deepen the legal and administrative measures aiming at facilitating access to Kuwaiti nationality to stateless persons residing in Kuwait, as well as to children of foreign or stateless fathers born in the territory (Argentina);**

157.251. **Urgently take measures to grant legal status to over 100,000 stateless persons and ensure their protection under the labour law (Austria);**

157.252. **Take appropriate measures to address concerns over having withdrawn the citizenship of naturalized Kuwaiti citizens (Republic of Korea);**

157.253. **Take the necessary steps to facilitate the process of qualifying stateless individuals to be granted nationality so that they can enjoy basic human rights (Republic of Korea);**

157.254. **Regularize as soon as possible the protracted situation of the stateless Bidouns in conformity with its international obligations and commitments and accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Switzerland);**

157.255. **Step up efforts to protect the environment (Iraq);**

157.256. **Develop an environmental strategy in line with international standards (Afghanistan);**

157.257. **Develop a comprehensive strategy for the environment in order to address the problems of water contamination and air pollution (Cyprus);**

157.258. **Ensure that industrial companies implement international and national environmental and health standards (Djibouti);**

157.259. **Continue its efforts in the area of protection of the environment and natural resources by effectively implementing Law 42/2014 (Gabon);**

157.260. **Continue efforts to enhance the necessary measures related to the implementation of the National Development Plan through appropriate means (United Arab Emirates);**

157.261. **Continue the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (State of Palestine);**

157.262. **Continue its developmental role in the world (Bahrain);**

157.263. **Develop plans to promote human development programmes in the State of Kuwait (Sri Lanka);**

157.264. **Continue efforts to ensure further social and economic development that is sustainable (Mauritania);**

157.265. **Continue its efforts to provide humanitarian and development aid (Yemen);**

157.266. **Carry on its efforts in supporting development programmes for developing countries (Oman);**

157.267. **Continue providing important assistance for the development of countries in the South, particularly in the areas regarding fundamental rights (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

157.268. **Continue the role that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is playing in the world (Libya);**

157.269. **Continue efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to developing countries (Mauritania);**

157.270. **Strengthen its work to further deserve the title of "Humanitarian Leader" which was given to it by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (Comoros);**

157.271. **Continue to provide impactful humanitarian assistance to help people and families struck by natural and man-made disasters (Singapore);**

157.272. **Continue its cooperation with the international community to provide voluntary assistance to disaster relief appeals (Pakistan);**

157.273. **Continue their active partnership with the international communities in the field of humanitarian affairs (Sudan);**

157.274. **Continue to support United Nations fund related to human rights (Iraq);**

157.275. **Continue supporting the United Nations humanitarian funds (Bahrain);**

157.276. **Continue providing support to the United Nations organizations and its specialized agencies, institutions, regional and international funds concerning humanitarian assistance (Qatar);**

157.277. **Mobilize the local resources and capabilities along with supporting the collaboration with partners and agencies of the United Nations (Oman);**

157.278. **Continue to support UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies (Egypt).**

158. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

*[English only]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Kuwait was headed by H.E. Ms. Hend Subaih Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour / Minister of State for Planning and Development, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Jamal ALGHUNAIM, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. Ghanem ALGHANEM, Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Khaled ALMUGHAMES, Counselor, Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Talal ALMUTAIRI, Counselor, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Meshal ALMANSOUR, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Zeyad ALMASHAAN, Counselor, International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Saud ALSAFEDI, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Saud ALHARBI, First Secretary, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Abdullah ALJRAIWI, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Haider ABULHASAN, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mrs. Ranya ALMUTAIFI, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Ms. Maha ALKULAIB, Political Specialist, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Abrar ALLMAIAN, Legal Researcher, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Fajr ALBUAIJAN, Legal Researcher, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Latifa ALAZRAN, Legal Researcher, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Nawaf NAMAN, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Ms. Huda ALSHAYJI, Undersecretary, Department of Islamic Law, Representative of the Committee on Women's Affairs at the Cabinet;

- Dr. Saud ALHARBI, Assistant Undersecretary for Curriculum and Research, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Zaki ALSULAIMI, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
- Mr. Hassan KAZEM, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
- Mr. Zakareya ALANSARI, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Abdulrahman ALMEHANNA, Prosecutor, Public Prosecution;
- Mr. Jamal ALDOSARI, Director General, Manpower Authority;
- Ms. Assil ALMAZID, Head of Public and Media Relations, Manpower Authority;
- Mr. Fayez ALZUFAIRI, Law Professor, Kuwait University;
- Mr. Mutalak ALMUTAIRI, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs;
- Mr. Khaled ALDAYEN, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Administration of Correctional Institutions, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Ali ALKALLAF, Citizenship and Immigration Department, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Mona ATLYA, Legal Researcher, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Eman ALNASER, Technical Office Manager, Central Agency for Illegal Residents;
- Ms. May ALTARAG, Media Researcher, Central Agency for Illegal Residents;
- Ms. Nedaa ALHOUTI, Head of External Public Relations and Media, General Organization for Persons with Disabilities;
- Dr. Nada ALTARKIT, Pediatric Consultant, Ministry of Health.